



## **PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023**

**SUBJECT: FINAL UPDATE ON THE ENABLER AREAS UNDER THE  
CAERPHILLY WE WANT WELL-BEING PLAN 2018-2023**

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



### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report provides an update to members on the enabler areas under the Caerphilly Public Services Board's (PSB's) well-being plan, 'The Caerphilly We Want 2018-2023'.
- 1.2 Over the course of the 5 years of the current well-being plan Committee will have scrutinised in-depth each 'action area' under the plan. The plan also encompassed three 'enabler areas' which reflect the approach to working in collaboration, rather than direct outward delivery to residents and communities. These three areas have not yet been scrutinised by Committee, although regular 6-monthly updates have been provided as part of the performance reporting against the plan over the past five years.
- 1.3 This report is intended to inform members of the headline activity under each of the enabler areas, what has been achieved, and any changes in approach over the 5-year duration and, in addition, to effectively close-off the current well-being plan for the county borough through member scrutiny of all areas of the plan.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The report provides information on the following enabler areas:
  - Communications and Engagement
  - Procurement
  - Asset Management
- 2.2 The information is a headline summary of the information that has been provided in 6-monthly performance reports focusing on achievements and any difficulties experienced over the term of the plan.

- 2.3 The replacement well-being plan for the area will be at a regional level and is currently being developed by the Gwent Public Services Board, to be published by May this year. This will run for the statutory 5-year period from 2023-2028.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That Committee note the updates in this report and provide any comment to responsible officers.

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 To allow Committee to scrutinise and comment on all areas of the Caerphilly We Want Well-being Plan 2018-2023.
- 4.2 To take forward any relevant comments and inform the development of the regional Gwent well-being plan and associated local action plans.

### **5. THE REPORT**

#### **5.1 Communications and Engagement Enabler Update.**

- 5.1.1 The initial period of the current well-being plan entailed the engagement of members of the community in both the local assessment of well-being and the 'Caerphilly We Want Well-being Plan' (activity over 2016-2018). As we near the end of the 5-year planning period the same process has been happening, but at a regional level, with local engagement activities feeding into the new regional well-being plan (activity over 2021-2023). This large-scale public engagement concluded on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 and the outputs are currently being analysed to ensure that the views of residents, communities, community councils, elected members, business and groups with protected characteristics are represented in the new Gwent Well-being Plan.

- 5.1.2 To facilitate the engagement activity a Caerphilly based group of engagement professionals across the members of the PSB met regularly, over the course of the 5 years, to drive forward the work and share information on engagement work ongoing within their own organisations. The group has been recreated at the regional level with a new Communications and Engagement Group reporting to the Gwent PSB.

- 5.1.3 Webpages and social media feeds have been put in place for both the current/residual Caerphilly PSB and the new Gwent PSB. The Gwent PSBs public face is administered and supported by staff at Caerphilly CBC:

[Caerphilly Public Services Board \(caerphillypsb.co.uk\)](http://caerphillypsb.co.uk)

[Home - Gwent Public Services Board Gwent Public Services Board \(gwentpsb.org\)](http://gwentpsb.org)

- 5.1.4 The webpages are used to hold all information regarding the PSB including minutes of meetings, reports, updates, the results of public engagement, data analysis, the well-being plans, and all performance reports.
- 5.1.5 The Gwent PSB has recently taken the decision to place recordings of its meetings

onto the website in the interest of openness and transparency.

- 5.1.6 Notable positives have been the strong desire to work in collaboration with professionals from all PSB members organisations through the pooling of expertise and resource. Notable negatives have been the difficulties in conducting engagement activity through the pandemic and subsequently the cost-of-living crisis. All engagement professionals have noted a degree of 'engagement fatigue' and a lack of ability to have 'forward thinking' conversations with the public when people have been dealing with significant pressure and stress in their daily lives.

## 5.2 Procurement Enabler Update

- 5.2.1 The procurement group ('the group') shared a commitment to make a significant impact to the positive change objective by improving the way we work together to develop a modern, flexible and innovative approach to procurement. Representatives of the group also supports and contributes to other action areas and there are particular synergies with the Apprenticeships, Asset Management, Job Growth and Employability Support and Resilient Communities groups.
- 5.2.2 The group was actively involved on a Gwent regional basis with the progressive procurement project, working in conjunction with the Centre for Local Economic Strategies ('CLES') and Welsh Government. The areas of focus were redefined during 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and covered: Construction and Retrofit (Decarbonisation), Simplifying and Sharing Best Practice, Procurement Policy and Food Procurement. CLES involvement in the project concluded in late 2021.
- 5.2.3 Progress had been made with respect to the identified themes and there is a definite appetite to continue to progress a collaborative community wealth building approach to procurement going forward, however that progress was not specifically attributed to the CLES project alone. The approach had brought anchor institutions of different sizes and sectors together, leading to the development of new relationships and connections. The process had facilitated a considerable sharing of best practice and has elevated strategic issues which require a pan-Wales, Welsh Government enabled response. This relationship building is particularly important in the Gwent context with the pending single PSB structure.
- 5.2.4 The establishment of the procurement group in 2018 coincided with the First Minister announcing that the National Procurement Service established by the Welsh Government would cease to operate in its current format. The procurement community were keen to fill the void and in conjunction with the Welsh Local Government Association ('WLGA') positively took forward collaborative procurement on a regional and national footprint in order to invest in procurement to deliver for future generations.
- 5.2.5 Key success during the last five years include:

Actively supported a collaborative response to the Covid-19 pandemic by participating in daily TEAMS calls with representatives of Welsh Government, WLGA, NHS and Social Care representatives in relation to Supply Management. The main commodity area discussed during those calls was the supply and distribution of PPE with the objective of ensuring a co-ordinated and collective response to this crucial area of supply regionally and across Wales.

Development and implementation of the Themes, Outcomes and Measures

(‘TOMs’) measurement framework on a regional and national basis and the TOMs were predicated on the 7 Well-being Goals. This work was undertaken in conjunction with the WLGA, National Social Value Taskforce Wales and Social Value Portal. The Taskforce is an ongoing stakeholder forum comprising of public sector bodies and entities including Welsh Government, The Office of The Future Generations Officer, Transport for Wales, Natural Resource Wales as well as a number of Councils and Housing Associations.

- 5.2.6 These relationships continue and now consider various other procurement related matters such as (but not limited to) the procurement reform agenda, decarbonisation, social value and community benefits.
- 5.2.7 2022 predominately involved work associated with the procurement reform agenda via the UK Procurement Bill and the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill. The UK Procurement Bill is the next step in the Government's plan to reform procurement policy in the UK following Brexit. The Bill aims to establish a single legal framework for the award of public sector contracts.
- 5.2.8 The aim of Social Partnership Bill is to establish a statutory Social Partnership Council, that creates new social partnership duties on public bodies in Wales such as the Council, promotes fair work and creates a duty for socially responsible public procurement and this will apply to the Council. We will be required to seek to improve economic, environmental, social, and cultural well-being when carrying out procurement, to set objectives in relation to well-being goals, and to publish a procurement strategy.
- 5.2.9 The current status of the aforementioned Bills was reported to the Council's Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee on 8 November 2022 and Cabinet on 30 November 2022.

### 5.3 **Asset Management Update**

- 5.3.1 Asset Management's shared commitment during the 5 year period has been to facilitate engagement with partner organisations and consider opportunities for shared use of built assets. There is a commitment to the way we work together, recognising that collaboratively PSB partners have a huge number of assets. Exploring the opportunities for shared use and collaboration has been a key agenda item, with the focus of providing our future generations with access to facilities and enabling residents to easily access services to empower them to reach their potential.
- 5.3.2 Initially, there were efforts to arrange an “Asset Management Opportunities” meeting to explore opportunities for collaborative working with PSB partners on two occasions. However, we were unable to garner commitment from sufficient key partners to attend the meetings. Given the lack of sufficient partner commitment to attend, it was proposed that the shared use of built assets would be explored and developed via the Community Hub meetings which are chaired by CCBC.
- 5.3.3 In addition to this, CCBC chaired and hosted two PSB asset management collaboration focused meetings but both were poorly attended and unsuccessful. It was decided to organise the meetings as a subset of G10 in an attempt to increase attendance and hence success. CCBC chaired and hosted two G10 asset management focused meetings with a proposal to establish a rotating chair and venue. Planned meetings proved to be unsuccessful and no subsequent meetings have been arranged.

- 5.3.4 Collaboration however has remained on the agenda and there are successes to note with progress against the Actions during the 5 year period. We have liaised with other public sector organisations to establish short, medium and longer term estate goals and where we can, provided support regarding co-location. For example, additional space has been provided to facilitate the expansion of the Welsh Ambulance Service (WAST) within the Borough at Tredomen Campus. The Service were able to increase the area occupied and expand their operations. Gwent Police were provided with a number of suitable options, however, they were able to identify internal space to address their short term requirements. Any further requirements from Gwent Police will be explored when required.
- 5.3.5 A Public Sector Hub based in Ty Penallta and a Public/Private sector hub in the Winding House have been established funded by Welsh Government's Valley Task Force Programme. These facilities offer accessible workstations, dedicated high speed Wi-Fi service, parking, reception and support plus access to café and welfare facilities. The facilities will be free of charge for public sector partners. The Winding House hub has been operational since October 2021 and is available to partner organisations and local residents with no charge.
- 5.3.6 Ty Penallta and other sites were used to support the Covid response during the pandemic, e.g. provision of sites to establish testing and vaccination centres. The vaccination centre located at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre remains operational. A safeguarding hub has been created in Foxes Lane where the Police have co located with Social Services and ABuHB. The hub has been operational since January 2021.
- 5.3.7 There has been some increase in activity within the Corporate Office accommodation as officers continue to return to the workplace. Many teams are now returning on a more blended approach as Covid restrictions continue to ease and whilst awaiting the outcome of the Agile Working Review. At Ty Penallta, a café style working environment has been created to support the return to the office environment. The space provides a flexible agile working zone, offering access to working areas and WI-FI.
- 5.3.8 We strive to provide a modern working environment, promoting collaboration and making best use of the space available e.g. development of hot desk facilities and agile working options. The Agile Working policy has been agreed and Corporate Reviews are ongoing. Potential rationalisation options of the current property portfolio are being considered a part of the Agile Working Review. There may be opportunities to reduce the portfolio further and increase utilisation at core buildings /sites. Collaboration and linking with partners remains key in order to progress Agile Working.

#### 5.4 **Conclusion**

The information above has been provided to allow members to comment on activity and to take forward any learning into the next iteration of the well-being plan.

### 6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 No assumptions have been made in this report.

## **7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 This report provides retrospective information on areas that have already been delivered as such an integrated impact assessment is not required.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no financial implications in this report.

## **9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no personnel implications in this report.

## **10. CONSULTATIONS**

- 10.1 All consultation responses have been reflected in the body of the report.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

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

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Background papers: Previous 6-monthly performance update reports on the Caerphilly PSB's 5-year plan can be found here:

[Progress reports « Caerphilly Public Services Board  
\(caerphillypsb.co.uk\)](http://caerphillypsb.co.uk)