

A MEETING OF Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee IS TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY ON Friday, 23RD APRIL, 2021 AT 2.00 PM.

Meeting Contact: Sarah Handy - Members Researcher & Scrutiny Officer
(07385401942)

AGENDA

1. THE 5 CORE STATUTORY FUNCTIONS OF THE CWM TAF JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Members of the JOSC are reminded that, as set out within its terms of reference, their core statutory functions include:-

- To review or scrutinise the decisions made or actions taken by Board;
- To review or scrutinise the Board's governance arrangements;
- To make reports or recommendations to the Board regarding its functions or governance arrangements;
- To consider matters relating to the Board as the Welsh Ministers may refer to it and report to the Welsh Ministers accordingly; and
- To carry out other functions in relation to the Board that are imposed on it by the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

To receive disclosures of personal interests from Committee Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

Note:

1. Members are requested to identify the item number and subject that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest: and
2. Where Members withdraw from a meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of prejudicial interest they must notify the Chairman when they leave.

3. MINUTES

To approve, as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting held on the 4th December 2020.

4. REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION

To update Members of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the forward work programme, annual report 2020/21 and proposals beyond the Councils' Annual General meetings

11 - 14

5. TO RECEIVE THE CHAIR OF THE PSB

To receive Mr Mark Brace, Chair of the PSB, who will provide the Committee with a progress update on the PSB in terms of response, recovery and future focus

6. CWM TAF WELLBEING PLAN OBJECTIVE- STRONG ECONOMY

To provide the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee with oversight of the progress made against the Cwm Taf Well-being Plan Objective 'Strong Economy' in relation to 'employment and skills' and 'procurement' (by means of Power Point presentations and reports)

Members will have the opportunity to monitor progress in this area and identify any further information it would like to consider in support of the delivery of the Well-being Plan.

15 - 36

7. CHAIR'S REVIEW & CLOSE

To reflect on the meeting and actions to be taken forward

Circulation:-

Representing Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council:
County Borough Councillors: T. Skinner, D. Isaac, D. Sammon, K. Gibbs, J. Davies

Representing Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council:
County Borough Councillors: J. Bonetto, G. Caple, W. Jones, A. Cox, a. Fox

Co-opted Members:
Mr M. Jehu OBE – Local Health Board
Mr J. Jenkins – Community Health Council
Ms A. Lewis – RCT Citizen Representative
Mr M J. Maguire – Merthyr Citizen Representative



Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on Friday, 4 December 2020 at 2.00 pm.

County Borough Councillors - Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee Members in attendance:-

Councillor J Bonetto (Chair)

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councillors

Councillor D. Sammon Councillor J. Davies

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Councillors

Councillor G Caple Councillor W Jones

Officers in attendance

Mr Christian Hanagan, Service Director Democratic Services & Communications, Rhondda Cynon Taf Council

Ms K Smith, Cwm Taf Senior PSB Support Officer
Mrs Sarah Handy, Members' Researcher and Scrutiny Officer
Ms Claire Hendy, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Co-opted Members in attendance

Mr Mel Jehu, Local Health Board Representative
Ms A. Lewis – RCT Citizen Representative

1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed Members to the first virtual meeting of the Cwm Taf Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

2 The 5 core statutory functions of the Cwm Taf Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Chair asked Members to note the 5 core statutory functions of the Cwm Taf Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, there were no declarations

made pertaining to the agenda.

4 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 11th September 2020 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

5 Report of the Service Director Democratic Services and Communications RCTCBC - Governance arrangements for the Cwm Taf PSB Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communications RCTCBC presented his report to Members and informed Members of the Governance arrangements for the Cwm Taf Public Service Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee and asked Members to agree a way forward for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

Members were reminded that following the agreement to establish the Cwm Taf Public Service Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee , Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council agreed to undertake the administrative arrangements on a joint basis and provide dedicated support and advisers for the JOSCS for a period of one year each, on a rotational basis respectively.

The Service Director advised Members that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and due to unforeseen pressures on Council resources, a review was undertaken by senior officers from Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council of the administrative arrangements of the Cwm Taf Public Service Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Members were told that following discussion amongst senior officers it was subsequently agreed that Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council would continue the role as the Host Authority for the 2020-21 Municipal Year and for a further review of the Administrative arrangements to take place at the end of the Municipal year.

Members were therefore asked to consider and review the Cwm Taf Public Service Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference and to consider any further training requirements.

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED**:

1. To note that Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, as the host Authority, will undertake the Scrutiny arrangements of the Cwm Taf Public Service Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee during the 2020-21 Municipal Year; and,
2. To approve the Cwm Taf Public Service Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference

6 Chair and Vice Chair Appointment

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED**:

1. To appoint Councillor Bonetto as Chair of the Cwm Taf Joint Overview

- and Scrutiny Committee for the 2020/21 Municipal Year; and,
2. To appoint Councillor Skinner as Vice Chair of the Cwm Taf Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

7 The Cwm Taf PSB Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme 2020/21

The Service Director of Democratic Services & Communications gave an overview to Members in respect of the Cwm Taf Joint Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/21.

The Service Director set out the context and pressures Council Services are currently operating within as it focusses on the impact of the pandemic and its associated plans for response and recovery. The Service Director went on to emphasise that the Committee will need to be mindful of these ongoing pressures and that Members are asked to acknowledge the balance required for a flexible and supportive scrutiny work programme.

Members were advised that the forward work programme sets out a manageable and realistic programme of scrutiny activity, allowing for the more pressing matters to be considered whilst having the flexibility to respond to emerging issues.

Members were reminded that given the current climate, the forward work programme priorities may be subject to change should other specific business need to be considered by the Committee.

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the contents of the proposed draft Cwm Taf Joint Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/21

8 To receive the Chair of the Community Impact Assessment Group and Vice Chair of the PSB

The Chair welcomed Mr Mark Brace to the Committee and advised Members about his role as Chair of the Community Impact Assessment Group and Vice Chair of the Public Service Board (PSB).

Mr Brace thanked Members of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for inviting him as the new Vice-Chair to give a progress update on the PSB in terms of response and recovery and the work of the Community Impact Assessment.

Members were reminded that Councillor O'Neill gave an overview of the second year of the PSB at Scrutiny's last meeting, held on the 11 September 2020.

Mr Brace continued to remind Members that the planned delivery of the Well-being Objectives, ACEs and Live Lab development and broader work against the Well-being of Future Generations Act was obviously greatly impacted by the flooding following Storms Ciara and Dennis, and then the pandemic.

Mr Brace emphasised that key questions remain relevant:

- How are we making a positive difference in our communities; and,
- Are our mechanisms for delivery right, and are they working

The Board last met on 20 October, and the was mostly focused on work started

or planned in context of Covid-19 and recovery particularly around the Community Impact Assessment, work with the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) and grant funding opportunities from Natural Resources Wales.

In respect of response and recovery, Members were informed that PSB Members were each invited to the Community Impact Assessment Group to give an update on how each organisation had been impacted and managed through the first wave of the pandemic and beyond. Mr Brace noted the following points:

- SPB had already identified some concerns around staff capacity, pressure on resources, the need for clear communication and promotion of behavioural changes. The group also expressed concerns over the rising number and risks of suicides, deteriorating mental health and well-being and how-to best harness and support community groups, created or re-purposed during the first wave, which were now unclear in their role.
- The Board expressed its thanks for the incredible effort made by staff across all organisations, and the speed at which systems had been put in place to move quickly and with purpose, particularly across the summer and being able to put in place the Test, Trace and Protect system.
- The group also acknowledged that any moves towards mass testing or vaccination would need to be sensitive to our communities and working with them would be crucial.
- The learnings from the Community Impact Assessment would be a valuable tool for teasing out the recommendations – based on data and insight – for immediate and future focus.

Members were reminded that they have had the link to the Sway document in respect of the Community Impact Assessment Group. Mr Brace highlighted the following points in respect of the Group's work:

- To better understand how communities across the entirety of Cwm Taf Morgannwg were affected by Coronavirus and lockdown, Cwm Taf PSB along with Bridgend PSB and Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Partnership Board carried out a Community Impact Assessment.
- Support teams from each of the Boards, along with representation including South Wales Fire and Rescue, Natural Resources Wales and the third sector co-ordinated the work and pulled local information together.
- The document has not been written as a public facing document, nor are there plans to publish. Rather, it is intended to inform how public services could work differently to deal with the impact of COVID-19 and improve resilience should future peaks occur.
- Data Cymru were commissioned to undertake the analysis and draw in national data sets and research. They were also asked to explore more innovative ways of presenting data, specifically 'Sway' as it allows for a greater interrogation of and interaction with the information.
- It focused on the impact of the first wave, and so covered the period up to August/September, i.e. the first wave and lifting of restrictions in the summer.
- The pandemic exposed existing inequalities, with some communities

being more adversely affected by others owing to factors including deprivation, population breakdown, health, people of BAME.

- Headline findings were around incidence, hospital admissions and death rates of Covid, impact on specific groups of people (carers, children and young people) and the impact of Covid on mental health, finance and our use of green spaces.
- The challenge will be on how we collectively work, with services and our communities, to tackle these inequalities in the coming months and years.
- The Assessment went to Cwm Taf PSB's 20 October meeting, with Sam Sullivan from Data Cymru walking the Members through the Assessment. It has also been shared and discussed at Bridgend PSB and the Regional Partnership Board.

In respect of the Centre for Local Economic Studies (CLES) the following points were highlighted to Members:

- A regional workshop involving colleagues from across Bridgend, RCT and Merthyr Tydfil - both local authority and third sector, as well as colleges, Business in Focus and Wales Cooperative Centre – took place on 13 October looking at progressive procurement and community wealth building.
- The workshop was led by John Heneghan and David Burch from the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) following their offer of support linked to the foundational economy work developing under Lee Waters, Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport.
- Community Wealth Building has five principles: fair employment and just labour markets, plural ownership of the economy, making financial power work for local places, progressive procurement of goods and services and socially just use of land and property.
- The workshop looked at procurement spend by the Local Authorities (and Health Board), and leakage, i.e. spend outside of the area. This spending power can be a means through which greater economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits can be achieved.
- Delegates were asked to consider 2 or 3 possible themes they would like to develop for the implementation plan for the first phase of this work. Initial thoughts from the 3 breakout groups were around
 - Food;
 - working with social enterprises and barriers e.g complex contracts;
 - the need for more relationship-based working with a view to more understanding of and engagement with local suppliers; and
 - How we can work together, better differently.

Members of the JOSOC were advised that the work has been left with CLES to plan the next stage of workshops based on who would still like to be involved and the identified themes.

In respect of NRW Grant Funding, Mr Brace advised Members that:

- The PSB has been successful in its application to NRW's Strategic Allocated Funding for £25,000. This is being used to deliver the 'Great Outdoors' project looking at encouraging people to use and access green spaces, particularly children and young people and families as this was seen as important to well-being and of particular interest in the context of

Covid and mental health. Consideration will also be given to promoting the use of green spaces across the collective workforce of the PSB.

- The project will seek to understand current provision and gaps, and look to deliver specific projects with identified participants, led by community groups with Interlink RCT being in charge of delivery.
- The project is due to start in January, and scoping workshops are underway.
- It is understood that this will be an annual grant, available for until 2023/24 at the moment.

Discussion continued and in respect of regional working Mr Brace informed Members that;

- As Members may remember, we brought Bridgend and Cwm Taf PSB, and the Regional Partnership Board together at a Joint Strategic Conference in January 2020.
- Since then, there's been ongoing discussions about implementing changes, reviewing how the delivery mechanisms for all Boards can be integrated and exploring opportunities to work together, setting a strategy regionally that can be implemented and designed around meeting local needs – now more important than ever in the context of Covid-19 and needing shared strong strategic vision and understanding when planning for recovery.
- It has also renewed our commitment to collaborative working, particularly with the RPB and Bridgend PSB on key areas that we believe can make the biggest difference, such as mental health, jobs and skills and climate change.
- There is an intention to hold a similar conference this January. We have been approached to work with The Health Foundation who have been holding sessions around the UK on 'Building Healthier Communities' and how Health Boards, and by extension the partnerships they are involved with, can look at the contribution they could make to their local communities and economy by changing how they employ people, procure and commission goods and services, make use of their estate and work to increase environmental sustainability.
- This is still very much in the planning stages, but an invitation will be extended to JOSC Members as plans become finalised. It is also hoped this work will dovetail into the work started with CLES.

To conclude, Mr Brace thanked Members of the JOSC for welcoming and allowing him to present the update.

Members were then provided with the opportunity to ask questions.

Councillor Caple thanked Mr Brace for the report and questioned what plans are in place to deal with the economic consequences of the pandemic. Mr Brace advised Members that 58,000 employees across the partnership have been furloughed and acknowledged that there is a lot of uncertainty about the future. Members were advised that the Community Impact Assessment work shows the potential impact of the pandemic on economic depression and mental health, particularly for young people and disadvantaged learners. The PSB has the opportunity to harness partnership working and to be a real benefit to the community. However, Mr Brace also acknowledged that the Board cannot do everything and the focus of the Board needs to be on work that can make a real impact in the community. Mr Brace emphasised that the conference in January

will allow the Board to identify key areas in which it can help residents across the partnerships.

Discussions continued and Mr Mel Jehu, the Local Health Board co-opted member, praised the leadership across all Local Authorities during the pandemic and praised communities coming together and the community spirit that has been shown throughout the pandemic. Mr Jehu also acknowledged the economic fallout from the pandemic, particularly in terms of mental health. Mr Jehu emphasised the importance of organisations working in partnership going forward.

Kirsty Smith, Senior PSB Support Officer, noted that the Board has been extremely fortunate to work with the Centre for Economic Strategy and commented that collectively partnerships can come together to support local jobs, local supply chains and improve resilience.

Discussions ensued and Councillor Jones reminded Members about the devastation of Storm Dennis and Storm Ciara in February this year and commented that the economic fallout from the pandemic and the storms will potentially have a huge effect on the economy in the future. Councillor Jones also noted the extreme pressure on employees who have been working throughout the pandemic, particularly in terms of health and wellbeing. Councillor Jones also wished to place on record his thanks to all three Local Health Boards and all Councillors and officers across the board.

Mr Brace commented that volunteering is an untapped resource and noted that each organisation has a volunteering initiative and noted that the PSB has a role to play in co-ordinating that approach. Mr Brace also acknowledged the extreme pressure on the unemployed but also on staff who are still working. It was emphasised that the PSB can play an important role in helping and co-ordinating to train young people in jobs for the future and that the pandemic has changed the way we look at work.

Councillor Caple commented that whilst working from home has its benefits, many people want to get back to work and to go to the workplace. Councillor Caple raised his concern in respect of the impact of working from home on mental health and wellbeing. Mr Brace acknowledged the difficulties of working from home and noted that working from home has added a new cohort to the work of the PSB in respect of loneliness and isolation. Mr Brace acknowledged that people who are working from home are often isolated from colleagues, friends and family. Mr Brace emphasised the importance of social interaction and its impact on health and wellbeing.

Following discussion, the Chair thanked Mr Brace for providing Members with a detailed overview of the Community Impact Assessment Group and extended an invitation for Mr Brace to attend future meetings of the JOSOC.

Members **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the update from the Chair of the Community Impact Assessment Group and Vice Chair of the PSB.

9 Any Other Business

No other business to report.

10 Chairs review and close

The Chair thanked Members for attending and for engaging in a constructive discussion. The Chair reminded Members that the date of the next meeting will be on the 5th February 2021.

This meeting closed at 2.43 pm

**Cllr J. Bonetto
Chair**

CWM TAF PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD JOINT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



23rd April 2020

UPDATE ON THE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME OF THE CWM TAF PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD JOINT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATIONS RHONDDA CYNON TAFF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 4

1. REASON FOR THIS REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update for Members of the Cwm Taf Public Service Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee in respect of the agreed forward work programme, annual report 2020/21 and proposals beyond the Councils' Annual General meetings.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members:
 - i. Acknowledge the content of the report and the update provided to Members by the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communications.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Members will recall that they agreed to the Joint Committee's forward work programme at the meeting held on the 4th December 2020 and that from that point all meetings would convene on a virtual basis in line with [the Local Authorities \(Coronavirus\) \(Meetings\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020](#) which had been issued by Welsh Government.
- 3.2 At that time the Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee were asked to acknowledge the current pressures on the Council as it focussed on the impact of the pandemic and its associated plans for response and recovery. Members are also reminded of the caveat that the draft forward work programme was subject to change as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequential unforeseen pressures on Council resources and officers.
- 3.3 With that in mind, it is proposed that the Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny annual report 2020/21 is presented to the first appropriate meeting following the Annual General Meeting of the Councils of Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council as an interim annual report to reflect the limited number of meetings which have been undertaken this year.

- 3.4 It is important that this interim report will include the joint scrutiny's activities during a difficult and unprecedented year yet reflect the impact of the pandemic on the delivery of the forward work programme and council resources. This extended timescale will enable the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee to include an overview of all the work undertaken albeit on a limited basis.

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and due to unforeseen pressures on Council resources, a review was undertaken by senior officers from Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council of the administrative arrangements of the Cwm Taf Public Service Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.
- 4.2 It was agreed that Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council would continue the role as the Host Authority for the 2020-21 Municipal Year and for a further review of the Administrative arrangements to take place at the end of this Municipal year.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that following the Councils' respective AGM's, the membership of the committee will be confirmed and a further governance report will be delivered to the first meeting of the 2021/22 Municipal Year, setting out the administrative arrangements and forward work programme resulting from the joint local authority discussions.
- 4.4 The agreed approach will ensure that Members of the JOSC will continue to work together with shared responsibility for improved outcomes with the most appropriate support and resources in place.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Discussions with the relevant senior officers from both Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils will be undertaken in due course to determine the most appropriate governance arrangements to ensure the most effective outcomes are achieved for the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 7.1 There are no legal implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

8. LINKS TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD WELLBEING OBJECTIVES

- 8.1 The recommended approach set out supports the Public Service Board Wellbeing objectives by ensuring progress of the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee is

robustly scrutinised by the Committee, the public and others with a vested interest.

8.2 The proposed approach will also support the requirements set out in the 'Statutory guidance on the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015' which states:

- Effective involvement of people and communities in decisions that affect them is at the heart of improving well-being currently and in the future; and, It is vital to factor people's needs; ensuring engagement is meaningful and effective.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CWM TAF PSB JOINT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23rd APRIL 2021

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &

COMMUNICATION, RCTCBC



BWRDD
GWASANAETHAU
CYHOEDDUS
CWM TAF
PUBLIC
SERVICES
BOARD

CWM TAF WELL-BEING PLAN STRONG ECONOMY OBJECTIVE 3.1

UPDATE ON PROGRESS –
stimulate and boost the
aspirations of our people

Priorities identified in the Plan

Promote the advantages of the use of Welsh and bilingualism in gaining skilled employment across sectors in Wales;

Provide a Gateway to skills, experience, qualifications and employment for those who are not in work supported by the anti-poverty programmes of Welsh Government, along with further and higher education;

Targeted early support with education and the employability programmes for more vulnerable residents e.g. children looked after;

Linking residents who are out of work with local job opportunities e.g. guaranteed interviews;

Commit to the Living Wage.

Promote the advantages of the use of Welsh and bilingualism in gaining skilled employment across sectors in Wales



5 year Welsh Language Strategy and Action Plan 2016-21:

- to increase opportunities for people to use Welsh in the workplace;
- to improve Welsh language services to citizens;
- to strengthen the infrastructure for the language, including digital technology.

Provide a Gateway to skills, experience, qualifications and employment

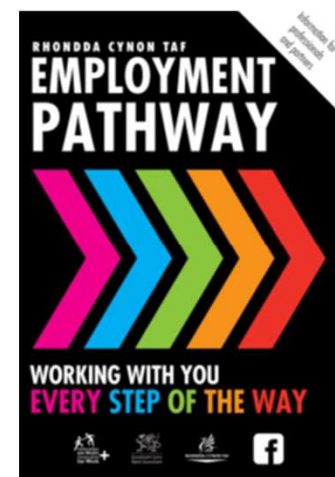


- Established a Strategic Employment Group in RCT including a wide range of partners;
- Developed an Employment and Skills Strategy 2019/21;
- Implemented an Employment and Skills Action Plan 2019/21;
- Established an internal Business and Employment Group.

RCT Employment Pathway



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Provision available



Adult Community Learning Programme

WG funded Employment Programmes – Communities for Work Plus; Employment Routes

ESF programmes:

- Communities for Work
- Inspire2Work (16-24 years)
- Staying Well@Work

DWP Kickstart Scheme

Creative and cultural programmes that raise aspirations and improve employability

Youth programmes to address the needs of young people

Education, Employment and Training programmes – traineeships, apprenticeships, graduate schemes, support for education

CfW, CfW+ and I2W Employment Support Programmes Combined Outcomes

Outcome	Up to end of Dec 2020
Clients engaged	5952
Entering employment	1667
Gaining a qualification	2040

CfW/CfW+ Community Engagement Plan	2019/20
Number of partners referring in	51
Total Number of referrals	3780
Number of Job Fairs (including sector specific e.g. care)	9
Number of start and finish engagement activities	1214
Number of regular activities: work club and Digital Friday	1410
Social media followers	3692

Illustration of Covid Impact on CfW+ and Legacy Delivery

CfW+	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Clients engaged	1144	918	478
Entering employment	393	434	201
Gaining a vocational qualification	406	303	115
Legacy Fund	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
More positive about mental well-being	920	957	0
Increased physical activity	69	82	0
Employment support from Job Club	1385	1491	524
Gaining basic Digital Skills	267	330	0
Know how to access support	428	398	212
Feel part of the community	364	360	185
Gained one or more qualifications		240	25

Targeted early support with education and the employability programmes for more vulnerable residents



Care2Work - The Care2Work programme provides children looked after, young people with care and support needs and care leavers with encouragement and support to identify and access a range of training and employment opportunities.

Step in the right direction - this offers two year paid traineeships for children looked after and care leavers aged 16-25. It develops their skills, knowledge and provides work experience in the Council.

Gateway to Employment – The Education Employment and Training team in partnership with Coleg y Cymoedd is working with learners with additional learning and physical needs and arranging suitable placements within the Council for one year to increase employability skills and sustainable employment.

Breaking the Cycle – multi-partnership between EET, CfW+ and SW Police Integrated Offender Management for prolific and priority offenders.

Linking residents who are out of work with Job opportunities



	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Employment Routes	44	48	30



Employment and Skills delivery during Lockdown



- Online provision for courses – expanded access to employability provision through a partnership with the Digital College.
- Remote telephone provision or through Teams for people to receive mentoring support and jobsearch support.
- Loan of tablets and computers to customers/ learners to enable them to continue to engage with us.
- Well-being champions and sessions to support tutors and learners (led a bid for WG on behalf of RCT, MT and Bridgend ACL Partnerships).
- The Council's Graduate and apprenticeship schemes continued to offer opportunities.
- Mental health support developed with partner organisations.

Challenges

There are 4 major challenges currently:

- The loss of European Social Funds which support a number of significant employability programmes and uncertainty of WG CfW+ and Legacy Fund grants continuing beyond March 2022;
- The ending of the furlough scheme in April;
- The longer term impact of Covid-19 on individuals, businesses, and communities;
- National government programmes potentially affecting local delivery e.g. DWP 'JETS' and 'RESTART' commissioned provision.

Impact of Covid on employment

	Total Claimants for out-of-work benefits	18-24	18-21	25-49	50+
December 2018	2,930	705	450	1,505	715
December 2019	4,750	1,170	730	2,540	1,035
December 2020	9,090	2,180	1,270	4,960	1,935

Opportunities

- Community hub developments;
- The Government's Kickstart Programme;
- Regionalisation of Adult Community Learning Partnerships;
- Development of LA plans for Employability Programme ready for Shared Prosperity Fund;
- Community Renewal Fund;
- Opportunities through CCR and VRP.

IMPACT

The impact of the programmes being delivered and employment support provided is best highlighted through feedback from those who have engaged with us through:

- Learning programmes
- Employment support
- Support provided to businesses

Video -clip

Questions?

CWM TAF PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD JOINT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



23 APRIL 2021

SCRUTINY OF THE CWM TAF PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD

REPORT OF RHONDDA CYNON TAF AND METHRY TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCILS

Authors: Marc Crumbie (RCT) and Paul Davies (MT)

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the expenditure on 'goods works and services' that takes place locally by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the contents of this report, in particular the financial values spent with local suppliers across both Councils.

3. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To provide the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update of the local spend that takes place.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In order to deliver the range of services that the Councils are responsible for, contracts are put in place with a large number of external organisations. In addition to delivering contracts that are compliant with the law, the Procurement Service(s) has a key role in supporting and enabling service areas to deliver economic, social, environmental and cultural outcomes through the contracting process.
- 4.2 This report provides a brief overview of the regulatory requirements that Contracting Authorities are legally obliged to follow and provides a summary of spend that has occurred for the financial year 2020/21.

5. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1 Whilst the UK has left the EU, the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (PCR's) continue to apply in the UK. UK Government is currently reviewing the responses received from their consultation exercise in respect of a new set of Regulations. Once that exercise is complete a new set of Procurement

Regulations will be issued, and Welsh Government Ministers will decide whether to accept that version or to compile their own.

- 5.2 Councils have an obligation to comply with this Legal Framework.
- 5.3 The overriding aim of an effective procurement process is to deliver value for money with effective outcomes. Underpinning all our processes are the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and fairness.

6. HOW MUCH IS CURRENTLY SPENT WITHIN THE LOCAL AREA

- 6.1 Based on the financial year of 2020/21, a total of circa £274m was spent on goods, services and works by the two Councils. Of this, circa £71m was spent with organisations with a postcode based directly within the County Boroughs. This spend analysis is derived from using the postcode of each supplier.
- 6.2 Table 1 illustrates how and where the total spend is distributed (based on supplier postcode).

Table 1 – Summary of spend financial year 2020/21

	Total Spend	Wales	County Borough
MT	£94,689,186	£66,590,269	£23,672,296
RCT	£179,154,962	£117,022,595	£47,091,661

- 6.3 The exercise of utilising the postcode of suppliers provides useful indicative data in terms of mapping local spend, this however also provides the spend outside of those postcodes. A term that is often used by external consultants when referring to spend outside of the locality is known as 'spend leakage'. If spend takes place with a company based in England, for example, this would often be referred to as 'leakage'. Whilst reference to this term could imply that the direct benefits of the spend is leaving the region/Wales, there are many examples where the postcode of the supplier is outside of the local area but benefits of the contract such as direct 'local' employment are apparent.
- 6.4 The financial values shown in Table 1 provide a positive picture in terms of the money that is currently spent locally, however both Councils are keen to do more to support the local economy. Work is taking place that aims to identify those suitable local businesses that could potentially deliver work and/or provide services. Whilst not being able to show favour, Councils do have the ability to promote potential opportunities. For example:
- Provide opportunities for local businesses to come and 'meet the buyer';
 - Ensure that local businesses are aware of how to 'do business with the Council(s);

- Liaise with these local businesses in order to establish if they have any potential barriers to delivering contracts for us;
- Investigate the best method by which local businesses in the area receive notices that give details of tenders that are upcoming and also 'live' on our tendering portal.
- In order to submit bids for work, some local businesses may require upskilling in this area. We will work with our partners in Sell to Wales and Business Wales to ensure that they can provide the advice and support needed.

6.5 In addition to advertising and promoting opportunities better, in some instances there can be potential to split the works/supplies into specific lots rather than combine them all together into one whole contract. An example of this is a recent (RCT) tender 'Disabled Adaptation & Repair Framework'. The Framework was split into the lots shown in Table 2. The table also shows the number of tenders received along with the number of winning bidders for each lot:

LOT	Contractors Awarded	Reserve list	Estimated jobs per annum	Estimated total value per annum	Tenderers
LOT 1 - General Building Work (Below £25,000)	12	5	214	£2.4m	16 (16 sme's)
LOT 2 - General Building Work (Over £25,000)	8	3	9	£300k	13 (13 sme's)
LOT 3 - Plumbing Work Only	12	5	157	£1m	19 (19 sme's)
LOT 4 - Stair Lifts Only	3	2	185	£647k	5 (4 sme's)
LOT 5 - Vertical Lifts Only	3	2	16	£216k	3 (3 sme's)
LOT 6 - Minor Works of Adaption Up To a Value of £600	5	3	1487	£400k	11 (11 sme's)

- 6.6 Under this framework, tenderers were able to bid and be accepted for one or more lots. After award, work associated under each of the lots is allocated on an alphabetical rota basis. Due to the number of jobs, it continuously rotates resulting in regular allocation of work, whilst avoiding the risk of contractors taking on more than their capacity allows.
- 6.7 The lotting structure was attractive to SME's as the jobs are manageable and spread timing wise. The pricing strategy, with a fixed schedule of rates, means the contractors know before applying what they will be paid for the work, and that the job will be local.

Moving forwards, we will:

- Review each tender on its own merits to establish if it is suitable to be split / lotted.

7. EQUALITY OR DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no quality or diversity implications as a result of this report.

8. CONSULTATION

8.1 There are no consultation implications as a result of this report.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no legal implications as a result of this report

11. LINKS TO PSB'S WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES

- 11.1 Whilst procurement does not factor in the Cwm Taf Well-being Plan there are clear links to how public sector spend can impact on the Well-being Objectives:
- Thriving Communities (Community Zones): Work with our communities to provide consistent messages, links and signposting to community, public sector and business support within and close to communities. This also includes employability skills.
 - Healthy People: We know through our Assessments that employment positively impacts on physical and mental health so work to improve or secure local employment through procurement has a cross cutting well-being benefits, helping people live long and healthy lives and overcome any challenges.
 - Strong Economy: Stimulate and boost the aspirations and skills of our people to meet public and private sector career opportunities. Understanding tendering opportunities feeds into this.

12. CONCLUSION

12.1 In conclusion, our high level monitoring provides assurance that there is significant public spend directly with businesses within our local communities. Through active engagement and appropriate procurement practices, we believe there is scope to improve local spend levels further.

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