

Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the Hybrid meeting of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on Friday, 6 October 2023 at 10.30 am

This meeting was recorded, details of which can be accessed [here](#)

The following Councillors were present in the Chamber:

Councillor R Bevan (Chair) Councillor Granville BCBC
Councillor Ashford RCTCBC Councillor Bonetto RCTCBC
Councillor S Evans RCTCBC

The following Councillors were present online:

Councillor S Griffiths (Vice Chair)
Councillor B Stephens RCTCBC
Councillor Alex Williams BCBC
Councillor Amanda Williams BCBC
Councillor M Hughes BCBC
Councillor F Bletsoe BCBC

Officers in attendance

Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication RCTCBC
Mrs S Handy, Members' Researcher & Scrutiny Officer RCTCBC
Ms M Lawrence, Senior Scrutiny Officer BCBC
Ms R Keepins, Democratic Services Manager BCBC
Mr N Howells, Scrutiny Officer MTCBC

Guests:

Mr M Brace, PSB Chair
Ms K Williams, PSB Support Officer
Ms S Davies, PSB Support Officer
Ms H Hammond, PSB Support Officer

Co-opted Members in attendance

Ms A Lewis, RCTCBC Citizen Representative
Mr M Jehu, CTMUHB
Mr A Robinson, NRW
Councillor A Roberts, South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority

Apologies for absence

Councillor C Jones (MTCBC Committee) Mr M Maguire, MTCBC Citizen Representative

1 Welcome and Introductions

The Service Director, Democratic Services & Communications RCTCBC welcomed Members to the inaugural meeting of the newly formed Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee (CTM PSB JOSC).

2 Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Service Director, Democratic Services & Communications advised Members that this will be a standard item on the agendas going forward and reminded Members to note the 5 Ways of Working.

3 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, there were no declarations of interest made pertaining to the agenda.

4 Apologies

Apologies of absence were noted from Councillor C Jones (MTCBC Committee Member) and Mr Maguire (MTCBC Citizen Representative).

5 Chair and Vice Chair Appointment

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED**:

1. To appoint Councillor R Bevan as Chair of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the 2023/24 Municipal Year; and,
2. To appoint Councillor S Griffiths as Vice Chair of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

6 REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE CWM TAF MORGANNWG PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD (CTM PSB)

The Chair welcomed Mr M Brace, Chair of the PSB, to the inaugural meeting of the CTM PSB JOSC.

Mr Brace welcomed the opportunity to attend and congratulated the Chair on his appointment.

Members were informed that the inaugural PSB meeting took place on the 18th May and that the plan's overarching ambition is 'A more equal Cwm Taf Morgannwg' which sets out two main objectives:

1. Healthy Local Neighbourhoods; and,
2. Sustainable and Resilient Local Neighbourhoods

Members were advised that the focus of the PSB over the next 6 months

includes:

1. The development of the newly merged PSB – Working with the OFGC and Co Pro Network, they will continue with a programme of development for the PSB
2. Development of the action plan to deliver against the objectives – this will establish the Board's priorities for action and timeline.

Mr Brace noted that some of the work already underway includes:

- Involving Young People – allowing them to have a voice of influence in the Well Being Plan. A student conference will be held in November where young people will meet with Board Members to discuss their ideas and how they can be involved.
- Links to the third sector – the Board has links to CVC's to look at community mapping tools, such as climate change, food prosperity and young people's mental health
- Website – The Board has commissioned Data Cymru to give it a rebranded webpage.
- Insight Network – The aim is to set up a regional network of partners based on a North Wales model to enhance and improve the Boards engagement
- Alignment to the work and priorities of the CSP – During the last PSB, we had a discussion around Serious Violence and the duties placed on Local Authorities. Board Members discussed the data and whether there was a way of matching the data to the underlying causes. This was supported by Board Members and referenced previous discussions of being data rich but intelligence poor. And this is something the PSB could work together to improve.
- Workforce Well Being – This originated in Bridgend and has been expanded to include regional partners in CTM to support the work of the PSB to deliver change and improvements to our collective workforces. A workforce was held in July which came up with several priorities for action such as work/life balance, resilience, diversity, and recruitment as well as opportunities that can arise from organisations sharing things such as training and support packages.
- Climate Change Risk Assessment – The PSB has recently agreed to undertake a CCRA in line with WG and NRW advice and guidance. It will identify a clear view of future challenges and identify strategic joint actions for the PSB.

Mr Brace emphasised that in terms of scrutiny we would like to emphasise the OFGC advise that in the short terms it may be better to consider the outcomes the PSB is working towards as opposed to its output i.e for scrutiny to consider how well the PSB is doing in developing the detail and how well the PSB is in involving its communities in the work, as opposed to any immediate actions it might be taking.

Discussions ensued and a Member suggested that as a Scrutiny Committee we could scrutinise how the PSB actually measures its success and its accountability. The Member noted the challenges in merging the two PSB's into one and in improving collaborative working and suggested that these are items for the scrutiny committee to look into.

Mr Brace agreed and noted that the focus this time will be to reduce the challenges to two objectives where they can really focus on outcomes, particularly in light of austerity measures. Scrutiny can measure the PSB on the ground in terms of community issues.

The Member also noted that organisations already have pre established processes and procedures and that it is very difficult to encourage a collaborative approach and therefore questioned what plans the PSB has to encourage a culture change across all the organisations involved. Mr Brace advised that the PSB should bring organisations together around a table and they are addressing those themes that they should focus on. He also advised about the importance of getting the right people around the table and emphasised that in CTM PSB there are a number of different perspectives that are much wider than most PSBs. He emphasised about getting the right perspectives around the table in terms of addressing the relevant issues and what the PSB can do is to have that joint working/partnership approach.

The Chair thanked Mr Brace for the update and noted that he looked forward to working with him.

7 Next Steps

The Service Director, Democratic Services & Communications presented his report to Members. The Service Director noted the previous comments from Members and emphasised that when considering items for a Scrutiny Work Programme, scrutiny could look at 'how' the PSB measures its own success in delivering upon the two objectives; scrutinise how partners are bringing work items forward to enable collaborative working and for Members to be mindful of finite resources and sharing best practice and identifying areas of duplication/overlap.

Discussions ensued and the Chair noted his agreement to this approach and emphasised that collaboration and challenge are fundamental key ingredients to good scrutiny. Pre scrutiny will also be critical.

Mr Brace re iterated the open invitation to Scrutiny Members to be a part of the PSB work and that Members can assist the PSB in their challenges and that pre scrutiny is key.

A member noted that communication is a high priority at this stage and also stressed that this is an opportunity for us to have shorter term tactical measures on things like communication and suggested that Scrutiny measures to what extent organisations are talking to each other rather than those strategic measures.

Another Member raised concerns regarding the scrutiny of the PSB and noted the need for Working Groups going forward to look at how we can change the culture within the PSB and emphasised that a culture change

is needed in order to achieve any outcomes.

A Co Optee Member congratulated the Chair and Vice Chair on their appointments to the Committee and noted the importance of working together to ensure all the organisations are working together to the same rules under one priority. The Co Opted Member also emphasised the importance of receiving up to date information in order to ensure effective scrutiny. A Member of the Committee noted his agreement.

The Chair emphasised the importance of collaboration and in getting up to date information to Scrutiny.

The Service Director RCTCBC summarised the discussion and noted that a draft Forward Work Programme will be brought to the next meeting for Members approval and that Members had **RESOLVED** for this to include:

1. To what extent partners are collaborating and the tactical measures that will drive that collaboration.
2. The outcome and progress of the PSB with emphasis and focus on the two strategic objectives that will drive those outcomes and priorities.

8 Any Other Business

There was no other business to report.

9 Chairs Review & Close

The Chair thanked Members for electing him as Chair of the Committee and congratulated Councillor Griffiths on his appointment as Vice Chair. The Chair thanked Mr Brace for attending the Committee and noted that there will be a lot of work to do going forward.

10 Information Reports

The Chair referenced the information reports and advised Members that any queries should be sent to scrutiny@rctcbc.gov.uk

This meeting closed at 11.07 am

**Councillor R. Bevan
Chair**