

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, 28 January 2022 at 2.00 pm.

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

County Borough Councillors

Councillor J Brencher Councillor A Cox
Councillor A Fox Councillor W Jones
Councillor W Treeby Councillor J Davies
Councillor K. Gibbs Councillor D. Sammon

Officers in attendance

Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Ms L Toghill, Cwm Taf PSB Officer
Ms K Smith, Cwm Taf PSB Officer
Mrs S Handy, Members' Researcher & Scrutiny Officer

Co-opted Members in attendance:

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

Others in attendance:

Mr Brace, Chair of the PSB

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

The Service Director, Communications & Democratic Services RCTCBC welcomed Members to the final meeting of the Cwm Taf PSB Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee in 2021.

26 Apologies

Apologies of absence were received from County Borough Councillors D. Isaac MTCBC and T. Skinner MTCBC.

27 Declaration of Interest

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

28 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 17th December 2021 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

29 To appoint a Chair of the Cwm Taf Public Service Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee

The Committee elected County Borough Councillor D. Isaac as Chair and County Borough Councillor J. Bencher as Vice Chair respectively. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair agreed to Chair the meeting going forward.

30 The Well-being Assessment consultation 2022

Members of the JOSOC received an update regarding the Well-being Assessment Consultation 2022.

Senior PSB Officer, Lisa Toghill, thanked Members of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Cwm Taf PSB for allowing us the time and opportunity to provide an update on the progress on the activity since the December meeting of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Senior PSB Officer set everything out under the following headings:

The Approach

Members were reminded that there is a requirement under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act to undertake an assessment of Wellbeing and the guidance sets out the specific elements that the assessment must contain. Bridgend PSB and the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Partnership Board (RPB) have collaborated on the Assessment work and engaging with the communities that we all serve. As Members are aware, a joint Community Assessment Action Group has been set up and until recently included Cllr Caple as a Member. We also have the support of Co-Production Network for Wales helping us to improve our engagement with our communities.

The next meeting of the Community Assessment Action Group is scheduled for 3 February where we will have opportunity to review drafts of the Well-being and Population Needs Assessments covering Cwm Taf Morgannwg.

The statutory consultation period for the Well-being Assessment is planned to begin mid-February and will run for 6 weeks.

What have we done?

- **Engagement and Involvement**

Members will remember the summary of engagement activity carried out throughout the autumn that was provided at the December meeting that covered groups we've met with and activities we've been involved with.

The Co-Production Network were asked to provide additional support to analyse all the engagement work, notes and products. An engagement summary document has been produced summarising key findings and reflecting the scope of the conversations held as well as the challenges we have faced. This has been shared with Members, from page 17 of the Document Pack. You will note that at the back of the Engagement Analysis document is some

recommendations that we will be looking to address during the consultation process, including addressing gaps.

This engagement analysis document will be translated and used as part of our consultation work, and we are also keen to return to the groups that were involved in the first part of the process to show how their contribution has been used and to continue as an 'ongoing conversation'. This will be dependent on appetite from the groups, as well as Covid restrictions.

The Engagement Group needs to consider how it wants to continue now that the initial phase of activity has passed. There is an appetite to keep momentum going, but there needs to be commitment and resourcing to allow this to happen, as well as understanding and appreciation from all levels about the value that comes from working in a more co-productive way.

- **Data Group**

The draft Data Report produced by Practice Solutions (PSL) has been made available to Members via a hyperlink (p16 of the document pack) shows the depth of work that has taken place to capture information against the four pillars of cultural, economic, environmental, and social well-being. Colleagues from across the partnerships have been involved in drawing information together. We are addressing final gaps to ensure a blanket spread of information across the region.

Like the engagement analysis, the Data Report will form part of the Assessment and be used in the consultation process. Key findings and infographics are being used to create 'fact sheets' bringing together the headlines of the data and engagement reports. We have been working with PSL to make sure these are written in clear, easy to understand language.

- **What next?**

We are still on schedule for the draft Assessment – bringing together the data and engagement reports by the end of January. We will be working to sign off this draft from PSB for consultation by 7 February.

This will then be sent for translation, along with all other relevant materials like the fact sheets, to begin our statutory consultation mid-February. The consultation period will run from 24 March and during this time it will be sent to all partners for opportunity to give a formal response, as well as the Office of Future Generations Commissioner and Welsh Government. It will also be shared for comment online and sent to those who have left contact details during the earlier engagement work. As mentioned, we are also intending on returning to those groups who have contributed so that they can see how their information has been used, and they remain part of the process.

We would also ask that the Committee considers how it wants to contribute to the Assessment and the consultation process prior to purdah. April will be used to undertake any final revisions, respond to feedback and produce, design and translate the final Assessment product ahead of publication

on 30 April 2022.

Following the update, Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions.

Councillor Cox began and queried whether there had been engagement with Welsh speakers. Lisa Toghill noted that they have worked within the resources available to them. Kirsty Smith, Senior PSB Support Officer, agreed with this comment to an extent, however, Members were advised that the survey itself was available bilingually and when colleagues in Merthyr were asked to share it as such, they were disappointed to find it had only been issued in English. The Officer continued that the response rate through the medium of Welsh was also dramatically lower than in English but added that when out undertaking engagement work with local young people, pupils from Welsh medium secondary schools preferred to converse in English. It was emphasised that ultimately the work can only capture based on how people choose to respond. Councillor Cox responded by noting that it is no surprise that the engagement has been through the language that has been prioritised and emphasised that usually when there is a lack of response, measures are put in place. Councillor Cox argued that the engagement work is weaker as meaningful engagement through the medium of Welsh had not been undertaken and requested that this should be rectified going forward. Lisa Toghill, Senior PSB Support Officer, noted that this will be considered with the consultation phase.

Mr Brace, Chair of the Cwm Taf PSB, continued the conversation and began by congratulating the Chair and Vice Chair on their appointments. In respect of the comments from Councillor Cox, Mr Brace noted that this is an ongoing conversation with communities and that they will continue to target specific groups and raising the profile of the Welsh language. Mr Brace also noted that they will look to increase their use of the Welsh language in terms of the consultation process.

Discussions ensued and Mr Jehu passed on his congratulations to the Chair and Vice Chair on their new appointments. In terms of the consultation process, Mr Jehu note that Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB has done a lot of work in terms of making a list of organisations and communities that will include some Welsh language groups to which Councillor Cox is referring. Mr Jehu also noted the importance of having a full list appendix of everyone who has been involved during the process. Lisa Toghill, Senior PSB Support Officer, noted that this has already been considered, with a full list provided in the engagement summary document.

Mr Brace also noted that there is a huge amount of reliance on partners of the PSB getting the message out with regards to the consultation and that this is something they will continue to develop going forward. Mr Brace also emphasised the importance of making people feel comfortable in the way they respond to them and in their preferred language.

Members of the JOSC were provided with a quarterly update on the work of the PSB by Mr Mark Brace, Chair of the PSB.

The Vice Chair welcomed Mr Brace to the Committee and thanked him for attending.

Mr Brace began by thanking the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Cwm Taf PSB for giving him the time and opportunity to provide them with an update on Board activity.

Members were provided with an update under the following headings:

PSB Future Focus

- PSB met on the 18th January, and following on from the October meeting, discussions continued regarding future plans and the need for a 'roadmap' for the coming 18 months, leading to the publication of the next Well-being Plan. Both Cwm Taf and Bridgend PSBs have agreed that the merger of the two PSBs to form one Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB will follow the timeline for the publication of the Plan. As last month's update to JOSC outlined, the current period is something of a transition as we manage undertaking an Assessment of Well-being in the context of a pandemic and Covid restrictions as well as looking to the creation of one Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board.
- The Objectives under the current Well-being Plan were on the agenda, and updates were provided by the Leads, which you will find in the reports for today's meeting. Discussions followed about what work from the current Objectives could continue moving into the next planning round, in line with what priorities will emerge from the assessment work. There is a continued agreement that the focus must be on the key 'wicked' issues, with the central aim of tackling poverty and inequality.
- Discussions were had around alignment to operational boards such as the Area Planning Board, and the mechanisms for the operational work of the PSB as we move through Covid recovery. The reprisal of the role of an operational board for the work of the PSB was raised as something we need to consider moving ahead to the next planning phase and with the merger of the two PSBs on the horizon. Members agreed that if Covid continued to abate, there was appetite for the Strategic Partnership Board to be reconvened given anticipated increase in officer capacity. This will be updated in more detail in the next quarter, in line with the cycle of reporting.

Well-being Assessment and Regional Working

- As reported last month and just updated, the PSB have been undertaking an assessment of well-being to be published in May 2022. This will be a joint assessment with Bridgend PSB, resulting in one Cwm Taf Morgannwg Wellbeing Assessment.
- As previously mentioned, we are also collaborating with the Regional Partnership Board as much as possible. They need to undertake and

publish a Population Needs Assessment by April 2022 so resources, intelligence, information, and opportunities for involvement have been shared as much as possible, this includes the data gathered and engagement activities with members of our communities.

- As reported last month, the initial engagement work to feed into the data report and assessment ended on December 17th. The Co-Production Network were appointed to analyse all the engagement notes and products. An engagement report was produced on the 14th January, summarising key findings and reflecting the scope of the conversations held. More detail on how this is being used will be outlined in the assessment work update.
- The draft data report has been produced by Practice Solutions Limited, which members of this committee received at the last meeting. Both PSBs have had sight and been asked to feed back their comments.
- The Assessment is still on schedule to be published at the end of April 2022 with the supplementary reports and fact sheets being shared as supporting documents.

Ongoing work

- Work continues against the current Objectives, and if I can refer members to the *Update on Quarter 2 of the PSB Work Programme* in the document pack, where all the highlights from each of the Progress Reports from the Objective Leads, are detailed, which are also in the pack.
- The Board devoted an item at the January meeting to the climate and nature emergency issue to determine what partners are doing, to learn what is already happening, and to support co-ordination going forward. There was also an offer from Natural Resources Wales regarding a Welsh Government initiative that NRW are leading on called Natur a Ni (Nature and Us). WG are launching a national conversation with citizens in Wales about the future of the natural environment, and the actions we can all take to safeguard it for the future. The aim is to involve people in a way that builds towards a shared vision for Wales for 2030. NRW have offered to support PSBs to be a part of the conversation and co-ordinate involvement in the initiative. The discussion highlighted lots of work that is already underway through various partners, and it was agreed that NRW would come back to us with the priority areas in relation to Cwm Taf Morgannwg. Chris Bradshaw suggested a working group of the PSB to co-ordinate action in relation to the climate and nature emergencies as an emerging priority from the assessment. It was stressed that community involvement would be paramount in any agreed structure and process. We will update the JOSOC on agreed actions and progress in the next quarter.
- Members discussed preparation for the Annual Report 2021-22, which will need to be published July 2022, and members were reminded that

this would be the last report of the current Wellbeing Plan 2018-2023.

- Finally, the annual review of the Chair's position was dealt with at the January meeting. There were no nominations for the position and there was unanimous support for me to continue in the role for the coming year, which I was pleased to undertake, particularly given my dual role as Chair of Bridgend PSB.

Mr Brace reminded Members that the next PSB meeting will be on the 26th April. This will fall during purdah period and so our quoracy and decision-making abilities will be impacted upon. As most members of the JOSC will also follow purdah rules, we anticipate that the Committee will not meet again later in May, where Members can be updated on a full quarter of progress. Mr Brace thanked Members for allowing him to attend.

The Vice Chair thanked Mr Brace for providing the JOSC with such a detailed update.

Discussion ensued and Mr Jehu sought the view of Mr Brace in respect of the continuity of Scrutiny in terms of the delivery of the PSB Work Programme. Mr Brace noted that it is crucial in terms of delivery and sustainability. Mr Brace emphasised the importance of working together and taking issues to Welsh Government is critical going forward. Scrutiny has a great part to play in ensuring that the PSB is achieving its goals and work for the community. It's important that the PSB doesn't operate in isolation.

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED** to note the update.

32 Information Reports

The Vice Chair directed Members to the Information reports and advised Members to contact the Members Researcher and Scrutiny Officer RCTCBC for further information.

33 Chairs Review and Close

The Vice Chair thanked Members for attending and informed Members that this would be the last meeting for the 2021-22 Municipal Year. The Vice Chair also passed along her congratulations to the newly elected Chair, D. Isaac and expressed her gratitude to Members for electing her as the newly appointed Vice Chair.

This meeting closed at 2.45 pm

J. Brencher

Vice Chair