



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**14<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023**

**PROPOSALS FOR THE JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
ARRANGEMENTS FOLLOWING THE TRANSITION TO A SINGLE PUBLIC  
SERVICES BOARD (PSB) FOR CWM TAF MORGANNWG.**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &  
COMMUNICATION IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LEADER, CLLR  
MORGAN OBE.**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to consider the proposed scrutiny arrangements for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board, following the transition to a single Public Services Board (PSB) for Cwm Taf Morgannwg.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Agree to the creation of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprising elected Members from Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend County Borough Councils to scrutinise the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board;
- 2.2 To endorse the Draft Terms of Reference of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee, as set out in Appendix 1, and to make any further comments as felt appropriate.
- 2.3 To determine the PSB Statutory members (non executive) and `invited participants` to serve as co-opted members on the Cwm Taf PSB JOSC as highlighted within section 6 of the report;
- 2.4 To agree that the Chair and Vice Chair arrangements, highlighted within section 7 of the report, be taken forward, commencing from the beginning of the 2023/24 Municipal Year.
- 2.5 To agree that the support and administrative arrangements, highlighted within section 8 of the report be provided by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, for a 2 year period, commencing from the beginning of the 2023/24 Municipal Year before a review of the arrangements is undertaken.

- 2.6 To agree that all Members of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB JOSC be provided with training to assist them in undertaking their new role.
- 2.7 Subject to agreement of the above recommendations, Council is requested to nominate a total of 5 Elected Members, 4 (Labour), 1 (Plaid Cymru) and 1 additional substitute member (Labour), as in accordance with the Council's political balance arrangements.

### **3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The need to ensure effective scrutiny arrangements are in place to scrutinise the joint PSB, following its recent merger.

### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 gives a legally-binding common purpose to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of their area by contributing to the achievement of the 7 national well-being goals. The Well-being of Future Generations Act (the Act) puts a well-being duty on specified public bodies including local authorities, local health boards, fire and rescue services and Natural Resources Wales to act jointly via PSBs. PSBs are required to
- assess the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in their areas (the Well-being Assessment)
  - use that assessment to set local well-being objectives (the Well-being Plan)
  - act together to meet those objectives
- 4.2 To reduce duplication and enable more effective joint working to improve well-being for people within the Cwm Taf Morgannwg area, the two PSBs currently in place within the footprint (Cwm Taf and Bridgend) have taken forward a merger to create a new PSB for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg area. This merger will enable the PSB to align with the health board footprint, as well as being co-terminus with the 'Mid Glamorgan' basic command unit of South Wales Police.
- 4.3 The Well-being of Future Generations Act provides for two or more PSBs to be able to merge and to collaborate if it would assist them in contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals.
- 4.4 The Well-being Assessment was prepared to cover the Cwm Taf Morgannwg area and was done in close collaboration with the Regional Partnership Board in the development of their Population Needs Assessment.

- 4.5 Following on from the Assessment, the two PSBs have worked together this year to develop a single Well-being Plan for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region that was endorsed by Council on the 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2023.
- 4.6 During February, the two separate PSBs, Agreed to the formal transition to a single PSB to ensure the delivery of the well-being plan and objectives, and are currently operating as a shadow joint PSB whilst the Board works through its governance and operating arrangements.

## **5 SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS.**

- 5.1 In order to ensure democratic accountability of the PSB, there is a statutory requirement set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015 and associated statutory guidance for a designated Local Government Scrutiny Committee of the relevant authority to scrutinise the work of the PSB.
- 5.2 Both regions have established scrutiny arrangements in place in respect of scrutiny of their respective PSBs.
- 5.3 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council agreed to the creation of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprising elected Members of both Authorities Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Governance, Performance, Business Change and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee (respectively) to scrutinise the Cwm Taf Public Services Board in 2016, and meets quarterly to scrutinise and challenge the work of Cwm Taf PSB.
- 5.4 The Membership of the Cwm Taf JOSCS equates to 5 County Borough Councillors from each Authority and also consists of 'co-opted' members representing the Local Health Board, Community Health Council and citizen representatives from the 2 local regions.
- 5.5 Bridgend Council have established a Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel. The membership of the PSB Panel is determined annually and incorporates six Overview and Scrutiny Members and counterpart representatives that sit on the Public Service Board.
- 5.6 Following the merger of the PSBs, it is important that the scrutiny arrangements mirror the same footprint to prevent duplication and ensure effective scrutiny arrangements are in place.

## **6 SCRUTINY GOING FORWARD.**

- 6.1 It is proposed that a Cwm Taf Morgannwg Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee is established comprising of 5 Elected Members from each of the three Local Authorities' Overview and Scrutiny Committees designated to scrutinise the work of the PSB as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015 and based on the political balance of each of those Committees, as far as practical.
- 6.2 To assist with attendance and potential quorum issues, provision will be made for one substitute Member from each Local Authority to be provided. A substitution will be made available to allow an alternate Member to attend the JOSC when *one* of the core Members are not available. This will assist with any quorum issues but will not dilute the knowledge base of the overall Membership.
- 6.3 Good practice would suggest that Co-option of Members to the JOSC is taken forward, to allow the JOSC to mirror in part the PSB. It is important to highlight that the current membership of the Cwm Taf PSB has not yet been finalised in respect of invited attendees, therefore it is suggested that the statutory partners of PSBs are co-opted within the scrutiny arrangements, i.e. non executive representation from Cwm Taf Morgannwg Local Health Board, South Wales Fire and Rescue and National Resources Wales. As a form of recognised good practice and in line with the ambitions of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015 of 'public engagement and involvement' the citizen panel representations currently taken forward with the Cwm Taf JOSC PSB is continued for future arrangements.
- 6.4 It is suggested that the arrangements proposed above are reviewed at an appropriate point in time to ensure that the membership, where possible, reflects the single PSB membership, once confirmed in respect of invited attendees. In accordance with paragraph 8.3.3(1) of the Statutory Guidance of the Local Government (Wales) Measure, 2011, the number of co-opted members on the JOSC should not exceed the number of elected Members.
- 6.5 A draft Terms of Reference for the merged Joint Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB Overview and Scrutiny Committee is attached as Appendix 1 of the report. It is proposed that once agreed the Terms of Reference are reviewed periodically to ensure they are 'Fit for Purpose'

## **7 CHAIRPERSON**

- 7.1 The role of the Chair of the Joint Scrutiny Committee will play an important role in the success and outcomes of the Committee. It is suggested that the appointment of the Chairperson is taken forward on an annual basis, although for greater consistency of the leadership of the JOSC, it is proposed that there is no requirement for an annual

rotation of appointment between Authorities and a current Chair could be re-appointed.

- 7.2 It is suggested that the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair can not be from the same Authority. Due to legal requirements, a co-opted Member could not be considered for the role of Chair or Vice Chair.

## **8 SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS.**

- 8.1 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 JOSOC for a period of one year each, on a rotational basis respectively.

- 8.2 In 2019 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, where it was subsequently agreed that Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council would continue the role as the Host Authority with periodic reviews of the Administrative arrangements when appropriate.

- 8.3 The agreed approach ensured that Members of the JOSOC would continue to work together with shared responsibility for improved outcomes with the most appropriate support and resources in place. This arrangement also complimented the secretariat support that was provided by Rhondda Cynon Taf Council to the Joint PSB.

- 8.4 Bridgend County Borough Council take forward the support arrangements for the Bridgend Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel.

- 8.5 Due to the previous experience gained with support arrangements for Joint Overview and Scrutiny it is proposed that Rhondda Cynon Taf Council take forward the support arrangements for the newly merged Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It is proposed that this arrangement is taken forward for a 2 year period, commencing from the beginning of the 2023/24 Municipal Year before a review of the arrangements is undertaken. This would allow for consistency of approach and support, whilst support officers from each of the Local Authorities would be involved in discussions and approaches going forward.

## **9 TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**

- 9.1 Members appointed to the Committee will be provided with any necessary training requirements to fulfil their role as a Member of the

Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee as detailed in the Terms of Reference.

## **10 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

- 10.1 The Committee will meet on a meeting frequency that will reflect the meeting arrangements of the PSB, where the scrutiny Committee will meet at least 2 weeks prior to a PSB meeting to allow for any potential pre-scrutiny to be undertaken. The meetings will be conducted on a hybrid arrangement and can be reviewed by the Committee as and when appropriate.

## **11 FUTURE POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT**

- 11.1 A review of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Region Community Safety Arrangements has recently been undertaken which recommended the establishment of a Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Safety Partnership Board. Given that the footprints are the same and the Boards are intrinsically linked it would seem appropriate that consideration be given in the near future to the inclusion of this Board, once established, within the remit of the Joint Overview Scrutiny Committee. Similar consideration could also be given to the inclusion of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board and any future partnership mergers based on the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region.

## **12 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **13 CONSULTATION**

- 13.1 The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference have been developed in discussions with the relevant senior officers from Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and Bridgend County Borough Council.

## **14 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 14.1 There are no legal implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report, although amendments to the Councils constitution will need to be taken forward as appropriate.

## **15 LINKS TO PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD WELLBEING OBJECTIVES**

- 15.1 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.

- 15.2 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

## **16 CONCLUSION**

- 16.1 The proposals outlined within the report will allow for the continued approach to scrutiny of the PSB, as the merger of the two PSBs move forward.

### **Other Information:-**

***Relevant Scrutiny Committee*** – Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Background Papers**

None.