

**CWM TAF MORGANNWG PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD
JOINT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

23RD FEBRUARY 2024

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

CLIMATE CHANGE RISK ASSESSMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the PSB Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee on work to develop a climate change risk assessment for Cwm Taf Morgannwg with a focus on the collaboration and involvement 'Ways of Working' as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee pre-scrutinise the current work of the CTM PSB as outlined in this report, primarily against two of the 'Five Ways of Working'; collaboration and involvement.
- 2.2 The Committee make recommendations resulting from their pre-scrutiny to inform and enhance the work of the PSB through its development and delivery.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To maximise the role and purpose of the Scrutiny function so that the work and priorities of CTM PSB are in line and embedded within the communities of the region and community need.
- 3.2 To ensure the PSB adhere to the Five Ways of Working and the sustainable development principle in its delivery of the Well-Being Plan.

4. Background

- 4.1 We know that the impact of climate change is already here and future generations, organisations and services will need to adapt and transition to respond. With nearly half a million residents Cwm Taf Morgannwg has a strong community culture and heritage and wonderful natural resources. Unfortunately it also has amongst its neighbourhoods some of the most deprived in Wales that suffer from ill health and poverty. We know that those neighbourhoods will feel the impact of climate change to a greater extent than more affluent areas.
- 4.2 The Public Services Board brings together key local organisations across Cwm Taf Morgannwg to improve well-being. Our Assessment told us that the impact and consequences of climate change is important to our residents, and our Well-being

Plan includes the Objective to have sustainable and resilient local neighbourhoods. To achieve this we will work with communities to understand potential risks and concerns, and identify opportunities for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

- 4.3 A climate change risk assessment considers the wide ranging impacts of what we know to expect, and are already experiencing, such as warmer summers, increased rainfall, more frequent extreme weather events and sea level rises. The assessment will explore the consequences of climate change on the health and safety of our communities, our environment, the sustainability of our business and services and the availability of food, water and other resources that we depend upon.
- 4.4 It was agreed in the development of the Well-being Plan that we undertake a risk assessment as part of the delivery of that objective.

5. Current research and practice elsewhere

- 5.1 Pembrokeshire PSB have undertaken a risk assessment jointly with their coastal forum and used that to develop a climate change adaptation strategy. Their strategy with details of the work undertaken is available [here](#). They identified 39 from the 61 domains in the Climate Change Risk Assessment for Wales that were most important to Pembrokeshire and in the subsequent strategy prioritised these for action.
- 5.2 Another piece of work, led by Cardiff University, undertook a similar piece of work for Swansea and Rhyl. Climate Ready Gwent have undertaken workshops with citizens on climate change.
- 5.3 Public Health Wales have recently published a [Health Impact Assessment](#) on climate change. The report finds that:
- Climate change is complex and is an important determinant of health and wellbeing.
 - Climate change will have potential major, multifaceted, co-occurring and inequitable impacts across a range of determinants of health.
 - Climate change will impact on the health and wellbeing of the whole population of Wales, and some population groups are likely to experience disproportionate negative impacts.
 - There are a number of compounding and cumulative impacts on some population groups in Wales arising from climate change, Brexit, the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the current cost of living crisis.
 - The impact on mental wellbeing should be explicitly considered as part of climate change plans and adaptation.

Summary	
<p>Major Negative impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food security and nutrition • Flooding • Higher temperatures and extreme heat 	<p>Potential positive opportunities for working to adapt to climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature based solutions and increasing access to green, blue and natural environments

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental factors such as water supply and quality • Mental health and wellbeing • Access to health and social care • Infrastructure • Population displacement • Landslides • Wildfires • Working conditions • Economic conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community led action, resilience and social capital • Enhancing healthy eating via the adoption of a healthy and sustainable diet • Creating climate resilient health and social care • Greater investment in decarbonised public transport and active travel • Increasing energy efficiency of homes • New skills, industries and jobs created linked to a “green economy” / decarbonisation, and a “circular economy” • Targeted education to empower and enable people to make choices and to take action on climate change as citizens
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6. A Climate Change Risk Assessment for Cwm Taf Morgannwg

- 6.1 Drawing on these and other sources, a risk assessment for Cwm Taf Morgannwg will consider how the elements of climate change we know to expect will impact on our area. It will be important to draw on local knowledge and lived experience of past events and benefit from the expertise across our partner organisations.
- 6.2 The risk assessment should focus on those domains from the national assessments that are most pertinent to Cwm Taf Morgannwg. It will provide a clear view of our resilience to the future challenges of climate change and identify priority areas risk for our area. Options for further joint strategic action for the PSB will be identified and the assessment will provide an evidence base for future work on adaptation for climate change for our organisations and communities.
- 6.3 We have procured a consultant to work with the PSB to undertake a climate change risk assessment through engaging with partner organisations, businesses, community groups and citizens. This research will identify:
- Existing knowledge and evidence of risk to communities, businesses, organisations and services.
 - What is already in place or in current plans to adapt to these risks.
 - Current good practice, both locally and more widely.
 - Views and aspirations for the future resilience of communities in Cwm Taf Morgannwg.
 - Skills and capacity across PSB partners to design and take action on climate adaptation.

When we talk about adaption we must also consider how the steps we are taking to mitigate climate change impact on our risk in the longer term.

6.4 Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Government and Public Health Wales have worked together to provide guidance to PSBs on undertaking climate change risk assessments. They propose the following steps:

- Step 1 – Set up a task group and identify key stakeholders.
- Step 2 – Consider the impact of past and present climate events.
- Step 3 – How is climate likely to change, who in our communities are likely to be most affected, what is the likely impact on all aspects of well-being.
- Step 4 – What are the biggest challenges for our area.
- Step 5 – How will we re assess our risk in the future if things change.

7. Collaboration

7.1 To plan and deliver this project we have brought together a small team from partner organisations who have existing expertise and experience in addressing the challenges of climate change in their organisations. The task group will liaise with the consultant and also ensure that we identify a wider network of the key local stakeholders to be involved in the risk assessment.

7.2 The membership of this task group includes

- climate change leads from the three local authorities,
- Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board
- South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- RCT Climate Action Network
- Natural Resources Wales
- Transport for Wales
- Bridgend College

7.3 The task group will work to maximise the benefit from our local expertise and knowledge. We can also learn from work done in other areas like Pembrokeshire, Gwent, Swansea and Rhyl.

8. Involvement

8.1 We have already experienced extreme weather events such as flooding in our communities, and in order to consider the risk from future climate events we need to understand the impact of these events on our communities. Part of this assessment will be to engage with communities to understand their experience of past events and what that means to them for the future. Engagement with communities is part of the brief for the consultant.

8.2 There are local groups and networks, such as Rhondda Cynon Taf Climate Action Network who will work with us on ensuring that our communities' lived experience is central to the assessment.

8.3 We will also be linking across to our project to bring the voices of young people in to the work of the PSB to get young people's experience and concerns about climate change into the engagement for the risk assessment.

8.4 As the Public Health Wales Health Impact Assessment identifies, there are opportunities for positive impacts from working together to adapt to climate change. Communities and local groups will be really important in both identifying the risk and capturing those opportunities in their areas.

8.5 We recognise that some people in our communities such as older people, people with disabilities and children will be more vulnerable to impacts from climate change. Working with these groups must be part of our involvement work for this project.

9. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to the Well-being Plan Well-being Objectives

9.1 Five Ways of Working

Involvement	It is important that local groups and local people are involved in this assessment to ensure that it focuses on those things that they feel are important and gains a picture of the impact on communities and families.
Integration	Individually many partners will already be considering how their organisation needs to adapt to climate change. This piece of work provides an opportunity to learn from each others good practice, share expertise and see where we can help each other by acting together. It will also enable consideration of cumulative and intersecting impacts across the population and places,
Prevention	This piece of work focus on responding to the impact of climate change we already know will happen. By acting now we can prevent those impacts having the most serious effects by being ready to respond, protecting communities, individuals, physical and natural assets
Long term	Climate change is not the only change happening in our communities. This project must consider how the benefits of other changes e.g. technical, digital can help. It must also recognise that our populations and economy are changing and our health and lifestyles are changing so those adaptations must be in line with those future trends.
Collaboration	by working together we can benefit from our collective expertise, our knowledge of our communities and resources. We should seek out partners with local, regional national and wider expertise

9.2 How the project will contribute to our Well-being Objectives

Healthy Local Neighbourhoods	<p>Climate change will have a significant cross cutting impact on our communities - affecting how we come together, keep healthy and keep safe in our local neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Delivering this Objective relies on us recognising the future impact of climate change.</p>
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Resilient and Sustainable Local Neighbourhoods	<p>The assessment will consider risks and opportunities to adapt our natural spaces, the way we travel and the ways we use our resources.</p> <p>Carrying out this assessment is a key part of our delivery of this objective.</p>
PSB Commitments	<p>The involvement of our communities will be a fundamental part of this work.</p> <p>As anchor organisations we can have a significant impact on well-being in our communities. By working together on climate adaption we can maximise that benefit through a common focus and joint action.</p> <p>The research through this assessment will better inform our actions as a PSB and individually.</p> <p>This work will give us a greater understanding of the impact on our local communities that will inform our regional priorities but also provide an evidence base for discussions more widely on climate change adaption.</p> <p>We will use the broad range of stakeholders to ensure we are looking at climate change adaption in a holistic way, seeing how different elements interrelate.</p>

10 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The risk assessment will consider how equality groups are impacted differently by climate change.

11 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report. Funding for the risk assessment has been secured through Bridgend UK SPF funding and contributions from the PSB align with previously agreed arrangements for Cwm Taf PSB that have not been used due to the vacant post in the PSB team.

12. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 12.1 The report has been prepared in accordance with the duties placed on the PSB under the Well Being of Future Generations Act(2015).

13. FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR COMMITTEE

- 13.1 There are no further considerations for the Committee for this item.

14. CONCLUSION

- 14.1 The PSB work to undertake a climate change risk assessment is set out in this report with particular focus on collaboration and involvement as the areas of interest for the Committee. This report allows the committee to contribute pre-scrutiny recommendations that will allow for enhanced delivery of the Well-being Plan.

<List all relevant documents – anything that is not already in the public domain>