



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA
DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

Councillor Mary Jones
Convener – Public Services Board
Scrutiny Performance Panel

BY EMAIL

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Dear Councillor Jones

PSB SCRUTINY PANEL

Thank you for your letter dated 9 June covering the Q&A Sessions with Core Group members.

It is good to hear your belief that there is a strong commitment to partnership working as this is a view that I share. I also agree that it is still early days in terms of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and that there are still things that need to be improved. The transition to Public Service Boards has certainly brought about a positive change for partnership working and we are all working to ensure that we make the most of the opportunity afforded by the Act. In relation to resources, it is also worth adding that partners contribute to the Delivery Groups and regular delivery of priorities on a daily basis.

I think it would be useful for the Panel to receive an update on the process of developing the Wellbeing Objectives that is now underway. Hopefully this is something that can be arranged as soon as the Panel has its meetings confirmed.

In respect of the specific issues you raise here are my comments.

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Environmental Issues

In relation to your questions as to how the PSB can raise the importance of tackling the environmental issues that affect Swansea, and identify issues such as air quality, water quality, waste, climate change and renewable energy within PSB priorities then I can respond as follows.

We have begun thinking about our Wellbeing Objectives and Wellbeing Plan in a series of workshops with stakeholders and, as a statutory member, Natural Resources Wales are able to contribute fully to this process. Indeed, they have already begun to challenge other statutory members on how environmental issues might be better addressed.

I will also ask Natural Resources Wales to lead an item at a future Partnership Group Meeting to ensure full awareness and engagement with the environmental issues you raise.

ABMU Financial Commitment

You asked whether this commitment could be clarified and I am delighted to say that the Health Board have agreed to continue their contribution for this year.

Pooled Budgets / Local Area Coordinators

You asked about developments on the issue of pooled funding, and whether the commitment from partners to fund additional Local Area Coordinators has been achieved

Whilst partners are debating and negotiating the wellbeing objectives for the PSB, the issue of pooled budgets has come up. The key to pooling resources is being seen less as an issue of putting money into a single pot, and more about ensuring that organisational objectives are PSB objectives – making the PSB work the day job. As the process for developing objectives continues, how successful we are at this will become clearer. The Core Group has had a discussion about the Local Area Coordination (LAC) evaluation report at their recent meeting. They were impressed with the preventative impact that the initiative was having. It is worth remembering that the original

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commitment in the Ageing Well Action Plan was 'to consider' contributing funds to a joint LAC resource. They have done this and as a result of the conversations, the Fire and Rescue Service has agreed to a two year secondment of one of their officers into a LAC role. Interviews for this post will be taking place in July 2017. Other organisations suggested it would be more appropriate to consider once the wellbeing objectives had been agreed, and so we have agreed to revisit this in the Autumn/Winter. Again, the key to gaining further support will be the extent to which we are successful at focusing interventions on outcomes that all partners benefit from, rather than seeing them on a single agency basis.

Communities First

In relation to Communities First, I agree that all partners can play a role in mitigating the potential impact of this project discontinuing. I will ask the Planning Group to consider the transition plans the Council has in place in the first instance.

I trust these responses are useful.

Yours sincerely

COUNCILLOR ROB STEWART
LEADER & CABINET MEMBER ECONOMY & STRATEGY

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