



Swansea Public Services Board Joint Committee – 11 February 2021

Initial Proposals for an Assessment of Local Well-being 2022

Purpose:	To set out initial proposals for undertaking the next Assessment of Local Well-being for 2022
Link to Well-being Objective:	Cross cutting
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) The Joint Committee support the overall approach and proposals outlined in this report; 2) At the meeting, statutory partners are asked to nominate representatives from each of their organisations for the proposed Assessment Editorial Group; 3) The Joint Committee are also asked to propose other nominees to participate in the Group and/or Research Forum.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The previous Joint Committee meeting on 15 October 2020 considered a report “Towards an Assessment of Local Well-being 2022” (item 10), a link to which is attached to this paper as Appendix A.
- 1.2 The report outlined the background to the development of the previous assessment, how it was undertaken and structured, and some initial considerations for the next assessment.
- 1.3 This update paper aims to take forward the issues raised in the earlier report and to set out more detailed initial proposals to progress the next assessment.
- 1.4 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and current associated guidance for Public Services Boards specifies that the next assessment of local well-being should be completed by May 2022. With this in mind, and in view of time and resources likely to be required to compile the assessment, it is considered that suitable arrangements should be put in place as early as possible. To illustrate this, in the

previous round (five years ago), a first draft assessment was prepared for consideration by the PSB Executive Group in October 2016, and a final draft agreed for public consultation in January 2017.

- 1.5 Whilst the previous report noted that it was “anticipated that there will be new and/or revised guidance issued this autumn” (from Welsh Government) at time of writing (1 February) this has not yet emerged.
- 1.6 In recent months Welsh Government has arranged a number of workshops, targeted primarily at PSB Co-ordinators and others likely to be more directly involved in the next round of well-being assessments; these recent sessions have focused on particular aspects, including “Effective community engagement during a global pandemic” and “Using futures thinking to inform Well-being Assessments”. Other Welsh Government hosted sessions, for example on co-production and community involvement, are scheduled in the coming weeks.
- 1.7 In view of this, it is considered important to initially proceed on the basis of the Act and Welsh Government guidance as it now stands, but to remain aware and mindful of any changes that may emerge and to retain flexibility to adjust accordingly.

2. Outline Proposals

- 2.1 These proposals further consider issues raised in the previous paper:
- 2.2 **Assessment structure:** Whilst there is no clear ‘right’ or ‘wrong’ way to structure the Assessment of Local Well-being, 9 of the 19 PSBs in Wales structured their 2017 assessments around the four strands of well-being: Social, Economic, Cultural and Environmental. This structure was used by Neath Port Talbot (NPT) PSB in 2017, so for Swansea there may be some synergy and potential opportunities for local collaboration in research and analysis on certain aspects of the assessment. We are not aware that NPT PSB are planning to change their approach in terms of structure for the next assessment.
- 2.3 Whilst the 2016-17 assessments took place around a time of transition (following the new Act and guidance, and the operational change from LSBs to PSBs), this is not the case going into the next assessment round. There now seems less imperative for Swansea’s next version to follow our previous structures, whether from the previous Assessment and/or the Well-being Plan; therefore coming to the task with a fresh outlook which follows the requirements of the Act and guidance as far as possible, subject to available resources.
- 2.4 Whilst the four strands can provide the high level document structure, it will be necessary to consider the organisation of content underneath, especially as there can be many, diverse aspects to each of the four strands. These aspects, and the headings for the analysis that will feed

into the main assessment document (and appendices), can be considered further by partners via the proposed group structure outlined below.

- 2.5 **Working group structure:** As noted in the previous paper, the previous LSB-PSB Research Group have not been active since mid-2018 (effectively following the publication of a 2018 Assessment Update paper and publication of the Well-being Plan). At that time, the group's initial proposals to develop a well-being measurement framework did not gain support. In addition, the 'outcome leads' tasked with collating content for the (former) outcome-based assessment chapters may no longer be available or the most appropriate people to progress the required work in light of new structures and arrangements.
- 2.6 The initial proposal for a working group structure for the assessment, as suggested in the previous paper, is outlined below. Alternative group names can be considered.
- 2.7 **Assessment Editorial Group:** a smaller, tighter group of approximately 6-8 named people, to be responsible for co-ordinating the assessment, collating and editing content. This group would ideally consist of appropriate representatives from all four statutory partner organisations (Council, Health Board, Fire and Rescue, NRW); and others suggested by the Joint Committee – whilst maintaining that number and balance of organisations and subject expertise. It is envisaged that this group would nominate a Chair, ideally with broad interests (across all aspects of well-being), a research focus and the skills and qualities required to conduct meetings, agree actions and progress the project through to conclusion. This group would receive steer, refer decisions and report progress to the Joint Committee.
- 2.8 **Research Forum:** a broader forum is envisaged drawing upon the wide range of research-related expertise across the partnership, to draw out relevant evidence around well-being which has a local impact. In the short term at least, this forum will operate mostly on a virtual basis. Participants will need to be effectively engaged early in the process, both to assist specific discrete projects/tasks and on a regular ongoing basis, e.g. via 'newsletter'-type updates, and suitable events around key stages or milestones. This forum would require co-ordination and resource to function, and would need to effectively link with the editorial group.

3. Next steps/ Actions

- 3.1 The Committee are asked to consider the overall approach to undertaking the next Assessment of Local Well-being in Swansea and the proposals outlined above.
- 3.2 Before or at the Joint Committee, statutory partners are invited to nominate representatives from each of their organisations for the proposed Assessment Editorial Group.

- 3.3 The Joint Committee are also asked to propose other nominees to participate in this Group and/or the Research Forum.
- 3.4 Subject to the above, an initial meeting of the proposed Editorial Group will be planned for March 2021.
- 3.5 It is proposed that arrangements for this first meeting and the initial work of these groups be co-ordinated by the Council's Strategic Delivery Unit and thereafter by the Editorial Group who will oversee the development of the assessment.

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Appendices: Appendix A – *Towards an Assessment of Local Well-being 2022*
Public Services Board report, 15 October 2020. Link below (item 10):

<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Mid=8913&x=1&LLL=0>