



## Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 15 June 2021

### Scrutiny of Swansea Public Services Board

<b>Purpose:</b>	<p>This report provides background and advice to the Committee in support of its scrutiny of the Public Services Board (PSB).</p> <p>Following on from the last scrutiny session on the PSB in December 2020, the Committee will be hearing from the following statutory members of the PSB on their role, responsibilities, and progress in delivery of specific PSB well-being objectives which they are leading on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mid &amp; West Wales Fire &amp; Rescue Service (MAWWFRS)</li><li>• Natural Resources Wales (NRW)</li></ul>
<b>Content:</b>	<p>Representatives of both MAWWFRS and NRW will attend and address the Committee to account for their work as statutory members of the PSB and answer questions. Written information has been provided in support of their appearance and is attached.</p>
<b>Councillors are being asked to:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consider the information provided, ask questions, and make comments and recommendations as necessary.</li></ul>
<b>Lead Councillor(s):</b>	<p>Councillor Rob Stewart (Leader / Joint Chair of Public Services Board) and Councillor Andrea Lewis (Leader's Representative / Joint Chair of Public Services Board)</p>
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<p>Adam Hill, Deputy Chief Executive, Swansea Council</p>
<b>Report Author:</b>	<p>Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: <a href="mailto:brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk">brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk</a></p>
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	<p>Debbie Smith</p>
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	<p>Paul Cridland</p>

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 At the last scrutiny session on the PSB in December 2020, the Committee considered the PSB Annual Report 2019/20 and heard about the work, achievements, and performance of the PSB with lead members of the PSB and lead Council officer(s). The Committee heard from Cllr. Andrea Lewis (newly-appointed Joint Chair of the PSB), Cllr. Clive Lloyd (former PSB Chair for the period of the annual report), Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Roger Thomas (PSB Vice-Chair), and Adam Hill (Swansea Council Deputy Chief Executive). This was an overview of progress made by the PSB, and the current situation.
- 1.2 Following the meeting, the Committee wrote to the Joint Chairs of the PSB to reflect on the discussion and provide views on the performance of the PSB. The Committee's correspondence is **attached**. The Committee had highlighted the need for the PSB to:
- a) improve the performance framework to better evidence the tangible difference the PSB is making.
  - b) improve public visibility / messaging about the work of the PSB
  - c) press the Welsh Government on PSB resources
- 1.3 The Committee agreed that the next scrutiny session should involve engaging with other PSB statutory members / key partners with regard to progress in the delivery of agreed PSB Well-being Plan objectives, and effectiveness of the PSB generally.
- 1.4 The four Statutory Members of the Board are:
- Swansea Bay University Health Board
  - Natural Resources Wales
  - Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
  - Swansea Council

Although the work of the PSB will involve a wide range of partner organisations from public, private and voluntary sectors, the four statutory members are the formal decision makers who are responsible for the functioning and activities of the Board.

- 1.5 The Minutes of meetings of the PSB Joint Committee held since December 2020 are **attached** for Committee awareness. The next meeting takes place on 17 June.

## 2. Scrutiny of the Public Services Board

- 2.1 Scrutiny plays an important role in ensuring that partnership working is accountable to elected local councillors. The overarching objective of scrutiny is to consider: What difference is Swansea Public Services Board making for citizens? Specific lines of questioning have focused on:

- The effectiveness of the Wellbeing Assessment
- The effectiveness of the Wellbeing Plan
- How well the PSB is meeting its well-being duties, and is considering the five ways of working and seven well-being goals
- The effectiveness of performance measurement arrangements
- The level of commitment from individual partners to the work of the PSB
- The effectiveness of the PSB in communicating its work, objectives and outcomes to its stakeholders
- The effectiveness of the PSB in addressing the issue of pooled funding to tackle priorities

2.2 It is important to note that the remit of PSB scrutiny includes only the activities of the PSB as a partnership and excludes scrutiny of individual partner organisations. The Committee can require any member of the PSB to give evidence, but only in respect of the exercise of joint functions conferred on them as a member of the PSB.

### **3. Public Services Board Well-being Objectives**

3.1 There are four PSB Well-being Plan Objectives, set out in the PSB's Well-being Plan published in May 2018, that provide focus for the PSB. These are joint objectives but each with a Statutory Member lead taking ownership of this work:

- Early Years (led by Swansea Bay University Health Board)
- Live Well, Age Well (led by Swansea Council)
- Strong Communities (led by Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service)
- Working with Nature (led by Natural Resources Wales)

The delivery of the Well-being Objectives is at the heart of what the PSB is trying to do to make a difference. Performance against these objectives will be the measure of success.

### **4. Focus of Scrutiny Session**

4.1 The Committee will be hearing from the following Statutory Members of the PSB on their role, responsibilities, and progress in delivery of specific PSB well-being objectives that they are leading on:

- Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service
- Natural Resources Wales

4.2 The following representatives will attend the Committee to present to the Committee, discuss their work and achievements in respect of the PSB and answer questions:

- Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service
  - Roger Thomas, Deputy Chief Fire Officer (also vice-chair of PSB Joint Committee)
  - Steve Davies, Group Manager (operational lead on PSB Well-being Objective 'Strong Communities')
  - Councillor Jan Curtice, Chair of MAWWFRS, and member of the PSB Joint Committee has also been invited.
  
- Natural Resources Wales
  - Hamish Osbourne, Swansea Environment Team Leader, NRW
  - Philip McDonnell, Coordinator, Swansea Environmental Forum (operational lead on PSB Well-being Objective 'Working with Nature')

Apologies from Martyn Evans, Head of Operations South West Wales, who would have represented the NRW, but was not able to attend the meeting.

- 4.3 Written information has been provided to the Committee on the delivery of the PSB well-being objectives showing progress against priorities and headlines in terms of what has been achieved. The Committee can explore with those attending views on the overall performance / effectiveness of the PSB, and any specific issues arising from the Committee's previous discussion etc.
- 4.4 Adam Hill, Deputy Chief Executive Swansea Council, will also attend to assist the Committee. As lead Council officer for the PSB, he also provides overall strategic coordination for the PSB.

## **5. Next Steps**

- 5.1 The Committee can write to the Joint Chairs of the PSB following the meeting with any observations, views and recommendations arising from the discussion about the performance and effectiveness of the PSB.
- 5.2 A further scrutiny session is planned for December 2021, which will enable the Committee to focus on the work of the Council and the Health Board as the other Statutory Members of the PSB, and progress with well-being objectives. The Committee will also be able to consider the PSB Annual Report for 2020/21, and follow up on any issues arising from scrutiny, and action taken, with the Joint Chairs of the PSB.

## **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 There are no legal implications from this report.

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1 There are no financial implications from this report.

**Background Papers:** None

### **Appendices:**

Appendix 1 - Letter correspondence between the PSB Scrutiny Performance Panel and Chair of the PSB – December 2020 Committee meeting

Appendix 2a & 2b – Minutes of Swansea Public Services Board Joint Committee – 11 February and 8 April 2021

Appendix 3 – Report from Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service: Strong Communities

Appendix 4 – Extract from PSB Annual Report 2019-20: Working with Nature