



Swansea Public Services Board Joint Committee – 21 October 2021

Assessment of Local Well-being 2022 Update

Purpose:	To set out recent developments in preparing for 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 note the report.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 specifies that the next assessments of local well-being in Wales should be completed by May 2022.
- 1.2 Previous update reports have been provided to the Joint Committee on 15 October 2020, 11 February 2021, 8 April 2021 and 17 June 2021, and the links are attached to this paper as Appendix A.
- 1.3 The June update report focused on the latest developments in regional collaboration (via the Co-ordination Board with NPT PSB and the Regional Partnership Board - RPB), and the initial establishment of groups to progress the assessment work including the Swansea Assessment Editorial Group.

2. Recent developments

- 2.1 The following has occurred since the last Joint Committee meeting:
- 2.2 **Editorial Group:** The Swansea Assessment Editorial Group is responsible for co-ordinating the development of the assessment and for collating and editing content. The group has met regularly in recent months to progress the assessment and includes (nominated) representatives from the four statutory partner organisations (Council, NRW, Fire and Rescue Service, Health Board) and other partners, e.g. SCVS. (Nb the Health Board has not significantly contributed to date – see para 2.5).

- 2.3 **Strand-based work:** Strand leads (or in some cases co-leads) have been identified who are responsible for collating information that will later be included in separate strand-based chapters for the assessment, covering each of the four different dimensions of well-being: social, environmental, economic, cultural. These strand leads are also part of the Assessment Editorial Group.
- 2.4 Working groups have since been formed for all four strands. Within these groups, topic leads are currently drafting content related to identified 'key' or 'associated' topics within each dimension, on the basis of an agreed sub-heading structure (broadly similar to the 2017 assessment), which will then be brought together into a chapter for each strand or dimension of well-being. Other officers and partners with different areas of expertise are also supporting strand and topic leads by providing content. At a later stage, the Editorial Group will then bring the different chapters together into a single Well-being Assessment document.
- 2.5 However, a number of ongoing resource-related issues have affected and continue to affect progress in the development of the assessment. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its associated / knock-on effects have so far had an impact on the participation in the process to date; the Health Board in particular (e.g. the physical health and mental health topics in social well-being) has not significantly contributed to date, although other organisations and Council services have also experienced difficulties as a consequence of current circumstances and pressures, and other factors linked to resources, capacity and commitment.
- 2.6 Concerns have been escalated to the relevant minister in Welsh Government by the Swansea PSB Chair and at a regional level via the Chair of the Co-ordination Board (para 2.7). However, the initial response to these representations has not changed the essential requirement or timescales for the assessment.
- 2.7 **Regional collaboration:** In March 2021, both PSBs, the RPB and Swansea Bay University Health Board agreed to work together on a joint and common approach to the Well-being Assessments (individually required of both PSBs, under the provisions of the Well-being of Future Generations Act) and the Population Needs Assessment (required under the Social Services and Well-being Act). The Co-ordination Board was set up to provide senior level direction and support for the current assessments in the region and has subsequently met around every two months. However, officers from the organisations continue to meet more regularly to discuss collaborative working, where beneficial, and practical steps to progress particular aspects of the assessments. More recently, officer representatives have participated across the Swansea/NPT 'editorial' groups, which has been a very helpful means to sharing information and experience.

2.8 **Revised timetable:** In part due to the issues outlined in 2.5, the assessment timetable stages and dates as originally envisaged (and previously reported to this Committee) have had to be extended. In summary, the key next stages and dates are:

- now to 5 November: topic evidence gathering / drafting
- ongoing to 15 November: well-being survey and engagement activity
- to early December: complete chapters and draft Well-being Assessment.

3. Next steps / actions

3.1 The Joint Committee will be kept fully informed of progress on the assessment at future meetings. It is also anticipated that a first draft of the assessment will be available for consideration and discussion by the Committee at the meeting currently scheduled for December 2021.

3.2 This report will also provide an update on the proposed key stages and dates for completion of the assessment from the New Year through to its final approval and publication by May 2022.

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Organisation: Swansea Council

Appendix A – links to previous Joint Committee reports:

15 October 2020: *Local Well-being Assessment*

<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=665&MId=8913&Ver=4&LLL=0>

11 February 2021: *Initial proposals for an Assessment of Local Well-being 2022*

<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=665&MId=9237&Ver=4&LLL=0>

8 April 2021: *Local Well-being Assessment (Regional) Update / Timeline*

<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=665&MId=9238&Ver=4&LLL=0>

17 June 2021: *Assessment of Local Well-being: Regional Collaboration & Local Update*

<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=665&MId=9239&Ver=4&LLL=0>
