



Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 18 October 2022

Scrutiny of Swansea Public Services Board

Purpose:	<p>This report provides background and advice to the Committee in support of its ongoing scrutiny of Swansea Public Services Board (PSB). The Committee is the designated Council body for scrutinising the PSB and its overall effectiveness, which is a statutory requirement set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. This meeting follows on from the last scrutiny session on the PSB in January 2022. Lead PSB members / officers have been called to report on progress and achievements since then.</p>
Content:	<p>The Chair and Vice-Chair of the PSB, along with lead officer(s), will attend for questions and discussion on the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Recently published PSB Annual Report 2021/22 www.swansea.gov.uk/psbreport- New PSB Local Well-being Assessment (published in May 2022) www.swansea.gov.uk/psbassessment2022- Development of a new PSB Local Well-being Plan, and objectives (must be published by May 2023) <p>Information on recent PSB Joint Committee meetings is also provided.</p> <p>Previous Scrutiny Letter(s) reflecting on PSB Scrutiny sessions are also included to support the discussion, and enable follow up on action taken by the PSB in response, where the Committee has made suggestions for improvement.</p>
Councillors are being asked to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider the information provided, ask questions, and make comments and recommendations as necessary.
Lead PSB Councillor(s) / Members:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillor Rob Stewart (Leader of the Council / Lead Council representative on PSB)• Councillor Andrea Lewis (Leader's Representative on PSB / Chair of PSB Joint Committee)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roger Thomas, Chief Fire Officer, Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service (Vice-Chair of PSB Joint Committee)
Lead Officer:	Ness Young, Interim Director of Corporate Services, Swansea Council
Report Author:	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer:	Amanda Thomas

1. Introduction

1.1 The Scrutiny Programme Committee is the designated Council Committee for Scrutiny of Swansea Public Services Board. Swansea Public Services Board (PSB) is the overarching strategic partnership of public service providers in the area, who work together to improve local services.

1.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires that a PSB is set up in every local authority area in Wales. There is a duty on specified public bodies to work through these Boards to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of their areas by contributing to the national well-being goals set out in the Act. PSBs are specifically required to:

- a) Undertake a Well-being Assessment for the area
- b) Set local Well-being Objectives as part of a Well-being Plan
- c) Take all reasonable steps to meet those objectives

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

- Swansea Bay University Health Board
- Swansea Council
- Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- Natural Resources Wales

The Statutory Members, along with Invited Participants, come together to meet as a PSB Joint Committee every two months. There is also a PSB Partnership Forum for more wider engagement with partner organisations.

1.4 Scrutiny plays an important role in ensuring that partnership working is accountable to elected local councillors, and provides a formal platform to make recommendations and challenge improvement of the PSB.

- 1.5 The Committee had previously delegated and discharged responsibility for Scrutiny through a stand-alone PSB Scrutiny Performance Panel. Following adjustment to the Scrutiny Work Programme in November 2020 the Committee is now carrying out this work directly, aiming to hold two to three PSB Scrutiny sessions per year.
- 1.6 The overarching objective of scrutiny, as agreed by the Committee, is to consider: What difference is Swansea Public Services Board making for citizens? Specific lines of questioning have focused on:
- The effectiveness of the PSB Wellbeing Assessment
 - The effectiveness of the PSB 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, including the public
 - The effectiveness of the PSB in addressing the issue of pooled funding to tackle priorities
- 1.7 The Committee will engage with PSB statutory members / key partners about progress in the delivery of agreed PSB Well-being Plan objectives, and effectiveness of the PSB generally. 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 a key measure of success.
- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 Whilst the Committee is responsible for looking at the overall work and effectiveness of the PSB, subject specific scrutiny bodies can still scrutinise the PSB's work in relation to a specific issue, within their remit.
- 1.10 The former PSB Scrutiny Performance Panel was set up as a multi-agency Panel consisting of Councillors and invited non-executives from local partner agencies whose organisation were represented on the PSB as Statutory Members and/or Statutory Invited Participants. The Committee has continued this approach and has invited these organisations to nominate a representative, if able, as a PSB Scrutiny Co-optee, who would be invited to join the Committee for each PSB Scrutiny session. The current position is as follows:

- Swansea Bay University Health Board (Non-executive Board Member) – currently unable to provide representation
- SCVS (non-executive Management Committee Member) – Cherrie Bija
- Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service (Member of the Performance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee) - Cllr. Terry Hennegan (already SPC member)
- Member of the South Wales Police and Crime Panel – Panel not formally providing representation, but Committee can invite Swansea Councillors involved in the Police & Crime Panel – currently Wendy Fitzgerald and Hannah Lawson (already SPC members)
- Natural Resources Wales (Non-executive Board Member) – unable to provide representation
- Probation Service (non-executive) – unable to provide representation

2. Previous Scrutiny Committee Sessions

- 2.1 Since November 2020, the Committee has been able to focus on PSB Scrutiny in meetings held in December 2020, June 2021, and January 2022.
- 2.2 The session in December 2020 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). This was an overview of progress made by the PSB, and the current situation.
- 2.3 The session in June 2021 heard from the Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service and Natural Resources Wales on their organisation's role and responsibilities in relation to the PSB, and progress in delivery of specific PSB well-being objectives that they are leading on.
- 2.4 The session in January 2022 considered the PSB Annual Report for 2020/21 and the Committee took the opportunity to focus on the work of the Health Board and Swansea Council as the other Statutory Members of the PSB, and progress with delivery of the PSB well-being objectives that they are leading on. It also followed up on issues arising from previous scrutiny sessions, and action taken.
- 2.5 As a result of these meetings, views on the performance of the PSB have been communicated by the Committee to the Chair of the PSB Joint Committee by letter. In summary the Committee has highlighted the need for the PSB to:
 - a) improve the performance framework to better evidence the tangible difference and impact the PSB is making.
 - b) improve public visibility / messaging about the work of the PSB and public engagement.

- c) press the Welsh Government on PSB resources.
- d) improve the clarity of action and outcomes from meetings.
- e) improve the ability to measure and report on progress in the delivery of Well-being objectives.
- f) reflect on PSB governance in light of lessons learned from the pandemic.

2.6 The Committee can follow up on how its views have been considered and action taken, or planned, on these issues. Correspondence with the Chair of the PSB Joint Committee following the Committee meeting in January 2022 is **attached**.

3. Public Services Board Annual Report 2021/22

3.1 One of the roles for Scrutiny is to consider the PSB's annual progress report and progress against agreed PSB Well-being Plan objectives and achievements, to consider the effectiveness of the PSB and difference being made. The recently published PSB Annual Report 2021/22 is **attached** for the Committee's consideration. The Annual Report is also published online here: www.swansea.gov.uk/psbreport.

3.2 There are currently four PSB Well-being Plan Objectives, as set out in the PSB's Well-being Plan published in May 2018, that has provided 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)

4. Local Well-being Assessment / New Local Well-being Plan and Objectives

4.1 The PSB has produced a new Local Well-being Assessment – published in May 2022, which will inform the preparation of a new Well-being Plan and Objectives for the next four years. A new Well-being Plan must be published by May 2023.

4.2 The Well-being Assessment is available online here: www.swansea.gov.uk/psbassessment2022. It is a lengthy document, providing an analysis of different aspects of social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being in Swansea, which effectively acts as the evidence base for Swansea's Well-being Plan.

4.3 As well as the Annual Report 2021/22, see **attached** reports provided by the Chair of the PSB on:

- PSB Performance Framework

- PSB Assessment of Local Well-being 2022
- PSB Local Well-being Plan 2023

5. PSB Joint Committee Minutes

5.1 The Minutes of meetings of the PSB Joint Committee held since the last scrutiny session in January 2022 are **attached** for Committee awareness:

- 10 February 2022
- 21 June 2022 (draft)

5.2 Meetings planned for 7 April 2022 and 11 August 2022 were cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 20 October 2022

6. Next Steps

6.1 The Committee can write to the Chair of the PSB Joint Committee following the meeting with any observations, views and recommendations arising from the discussion about the performance and effectiveness of the PSB.

6.2 The next PSB Scrutiny session is planned for 14 March 2023.

7. Integrated Assessment Implications

7.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

7.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by

taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

7.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

7.2 An IIA screening has been undertaken noting there are minimal impact assessment implications associated with this information report. The work of Scrutiny is open to the public, promoted via Council media channels, and enable all citizens to ask questions, raise issues and/or input views. The work of Scrutiny involves examination of Council services and making recommendations for improvement to Cabinet Members (and other decision-makers). Scrutiny activities have the potential for engagement to ensure public views can feed into the Scrutiny process.

8. Legal Implications

8.1 There are no legal implications from this report.

9. Financial Implications

9.1 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: January 2022 Committee meeting

Appendix 2 – Swansea PSB Annual Report 2021/22

Appendix 3 – Briefing - Swansea PSB Performance Framework

Appendix 4 – Briefing - Swansea PSB: Assessment of Local Well-being 2022

Appendix 5 – Briefing - Swansea PSB: Local Well-being Plan 2023

Appendix 6 – Minutes of Swansea Public Services Board Joint Committee:
A) 10 February 2022 meeting & B) 21 June 2022 meeting (draft)