



## Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 14 February 2023

### Scrutiny of Swansea Public Services Board – Draft Local Well-being Plan

<b>Purpose:</b>	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 October 2022.
<b>Content:</b>	<p>The Chair and Vice-Chair of the PSB, along with lead officer(s), will attend to present, address questions, and consider Committee views on the PSB's Draft Local Well-being Plan, and objectives, which must be published by May 2023.</p> <p>The previous Committee Scrutiny Letter reflecting on the last PSB Scrutiny session is 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>
<b>Councillors are being asked to:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consider the Draft PSB Local Well-being Plan, ask questions, and give views.</li></ul>
<b>Lead PSB Councillor(s) / Members:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Councillor Rob Stewart (Leader of the Council / Lead Council representative on PSB)</li><li>• Councillor Andrea Lewis (Leader's Representative on PSB / Chair of PSB Joint Committee)</li><li>• Roger Thomas, Chief Fire Officer, Mid &amp; West Wales Fire &amp; Rescue Service (Vice-Chair of PSB Joint Committee)</li></ul>
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Ness Young, Interim Director of Corporate Services, Swansea Council
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<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Debbie Smith
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	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 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
- 1.6 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 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.
- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 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.

## **2. Previous Scrutiny Committee Session**

- 2.2 The session in October 2022 considered the PSB Annual Report 2021/22 in relation to overall progress and performance of the PSB. There was also discussion on the work being done to improve the PSB's performance framework (following issue raised by the Committee); the new Assessment of Local Well-being (published in May 2022), and the development of a new Local Well-being Plan which must be in place by May 2023. The Committee Letter to the Chair of the PSB is **attached** to remind Committee Members and enable follow up on how views have been considered and action taken, or planned, by the PSB in response, where the Committee has made suggestions for improvement.

## **3. Public Services Board Draft Local Well-being Plan**

- 3.1 Having produced a new Local Well-being Assessment – published in May 2022 – the PSB has drafted a new Well-being Plan and Objectives for the next four years. A new Well-being Plan must be published by May 2023. The Well-being Assessment effectively acts as the evidence base for Swansea's Well-being Plan.
- 3.2 The Committee is a statutory consultee on the PSB Well-being Plan and will have opportunity to review the Plan, ask questions, and give views, which should be considered by the PSB ahead of formal decision-making and Plan approval.

- 3.3 At the last PSB Scrutiny session, the Committee was keen to see the PSB engaging effectively with the public, through accessible means to maximise reach, including use of social media as well as face-to-face opportunities, and having 'executive summaries' and / or easy read documents to facilitate public feedback. The Committee will be aware that public consultation on the Plan was launched in November and runs until 13 February 2023:

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/wellbeingstrategyurvey>

- 3.4 A report on the Draft Local Well-being Plan has been provided by the Chair of the PSB, and is **attached** for consideration.

#### **4. PSB Joint Committee Minutes**

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

- 20 October 2022
- 1 December 2022 (draft)

- 4.2 The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 9 February 2023.

#### **5. Integrated Assessment Implications**

- 5.1 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.

- 5.1.1 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'.

5.1.2 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.

5.2 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.

## **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: October 2022 Committee meeting

Appendix 2 – Report on Swansea PSB Draft Local Well-being Plan

Appendix 3 – Minutes of Swansea Public Services Board Joint Committee:  
A) 20 October 2022 meeting & B) 1 December 2022 meeting (draft)