



Report of the Chair of Public Services Board (PSB)

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 19th November 2024

Update on Public Services Board

Purpose	To update the Scrutiny Committee on the work that has been undertaken since our last Public Services Board Scrutiny session on 14 th May 2024.
Content	The report sets out the progress of the PSB work to date.
Councillors are being asked to	Consider the information provided and give any views/comments.
Lead Councillor(s)	<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)
Lead Officer	Ness Young, Director of Corporate Services, Swansea Council
Report Author	Lee Wenham
Legal Officer	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer	Amanda Thomas

1. Background

At the last scrutiny session back in May, the Committee requested that the Welsh Government quarterly bulletin is distributed amongst Swansea Councillors as it will help to raise awareness of the Public Services Board. We can confirm that the most recent bulletin received was circulated to all Councillors on 22nd October 2024.

The Committee was also interested in examples of the PSB's engagement with the public, and welcomed a focussed discussion on this aspect, looking at relevant activities during 2024.

2. Briefing/Main Body of Report

Since the last PSB Scrutiny session on 14th May 2024, there have been two Public Services Board meetings that took place on 18th July and 10th October 2024.

The Public Services Board Annual Report 2023/34 has been published and a supporting video has also been produced and shared. Please find attached – **Appendix A.**

As a PSB, we have continued to make progress towards the delivery of the 2024/25 action plan. For more detail, please find attached – **Appendix B.**

A further item that the scrutiny panel was interested in, as mentioned above, was how we engage wider and involve others in this area of work. An example of the most recent activity to involve wider partners, organisations and stakeholders was the PSB Partnership Forum that took place on 18th September 2024. Please find attached details of the event - **Appendix C.**

We have introduced a “Sign up” page on our website for people to receive our Public Services Board emails and be kept informed around this area of work. We also include our email address Swansea.psb@swansea.gov.uk which welcomes involvement, ideas and suggestions in all areas of our work to be considered for our future work.

Our Swansea PSB Meetings are held in public and questions from the public are invited via a standing agenda item Public Question Time.

3. Conclusions/Key Points Summary

- 3.1 In summary, the work of the PSB is progressing towards the actions set out in order to deliver on the identified areas within our PSB Well-being Plan. It is pleasing to see from the feedback of the recent PSB Partnership Forum that everyone involved in this area of work is keen and enthusiastic to achieve and deliver on the well-being of Swansea. The relationships between partners is evident and we continue to strengthen and maintain positive connections. The findings from the Partnership Forum will be considered when setting future actions for 2025/26. We will continue to build upon our list of contacts and explore more ideas of how we can engage and involve the public and raise PSB awareness where possible.

4. Legal implications

- 4.1 None

5. Finance Implications

- 5.1 None

6. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 6.1 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.

6.1.1 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'.

6.1.2 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.

6.2 As this report is for information only, an IIA is not required.

Background papers: None

Appendices: Appendix A- Swansea Public Services Board Annual Report 2023/24
 Appendix B - 2024/25 PSB Action Plan & Progress Updates
 Appendix C- PSB Partnership Forum Event 18th September 2024