



**To/
Councillor Andrea Lewis,
Chair of Swansea Public Services
Board Joint Committee**

BY EMAIL

cc: Vice-Chair of Swansea PSB Joint
Committee

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Scrutiny

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SPC/2022-23/10

28 February 2023

Summary: This is a letter from the Scrutiny Programme Committee to the Chair of Swansea Public Services Board Joint Committee following the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on 14 February 2023. It contains feedback on the Public Services Board Draft Local Well-Plan. A formal written response is not required.

Dear Councillor Lewis,

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 14 February Draft PSB Local Well-being Plan

We are writing to you following our Scrutiny session with our views, reflecting on information presented, questions and discussion, on the Draft PSB Local Well-being Plan. This follows on from the previous Scrutiny session held in October 2022, as part of ongoing Scrutiny of Swansea PSB.

We noted that the PSB's new Local Well-being Plan must be in place by May 2023, and is subject to a consultation process, which started in November 2022. We thank you for attending the meeting, and appreciated the input provided by Richard Rowlands, Strategic Delivery & Performance Manager, Swansea Council, and Suzy Richards, Policy Officer, Swansea Council, who have been integral in developing the Plan on behalf of the PSB.

The Committee acknowledged that changes have been made to the Plan, and continue to be made, in response to the consultation, and you highlighted some key potential areas of amendment. We noted however that the headings of the four Local Well-being Objectives continue to be supported and remain, but their definitions have been updated. In particular, the Climate

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Change and Nature Recovery objective focuses explicitly on biodiversity and the causes and impacts of climate change to better reflect both adaptation and mitigation:

- **Early Years:** To ensure that children in Swansea have the best start in life to be the best they can be.
- **Live Well, Age Well:** To make Swansea a great place to live at every stage of life.
- **Climate Change and Nature Recovery:** To restore and enhance biodiversity, tackle the causes and reduce the impact of climate change.
- **Strong Communities:** To build cohesive communities with a sense of pride and belonging.

We noted that formal sign off of the Plan by the PSB Joint Committee is expected 27 April 2023, enabling publication / launch in May. Ahead of that, we also noted the Plan is also being reported to 30 March Council meeting for organisation approval, with other statutory partners doing similar.

Scrutiny Views

From our discussion, the Committee would bring the following to your attention as feedback on the Draft Well-being Plan:

1) Public Engagement

We discussed the extent of public engagement in the development of the Plan. 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 opportunities, and having 'executive summaries' and / or easy read documents to facilitate public awareness and feedback. We noted the engagement activity carried out, as set out in the report provided to the Committee. This indicated that a range of efforts have been made to communicate with stakeholders including the wider public, raise awareness of the PSB and Well-being Plan, and invite views. You reported that following Joint Committee approval of the final Plan a 'Plan on a Page', Screen Reader, Easy Read and digital video versions of the Plan will be produced to communicate the Plan at launch in May 2023, which we welcome. Whilst acknowledging the challenges, and possible reasons for it, we remain concerned about the low level of survey responses and would suggest you evaluate the approach taken and methods of engagement for the future. As such, we would challenge whether there is overwhelming public support.

2) Performance Measures

We understand that the Plan is the overarching strategic document setting out priorities, and had no significant concerns about the direction, however, are keen to see detail on the performance framework and measurable outcomes. The Committee was told that action plans will sit behind each of the Well-

being Objectives, and are currently subject of development. We recommended there be a clear link between national well-being indicators and each of the Well-being Plan objectives, so that it is clear what indicators are driving the Plan and helping to track progress. You reported that between March and June 2023, action plans will be produced for each objective alongside the identification of responsibilities, outputs, and performance arrangements. There will be clarity about leads and will show actions for individual partners. We look forward to seeing the action plan(s) at the next Scrutiny session in around six months. This is important for public accountability and making sure the PSB is making a difference.

3) Financial Implications

The delivery of the Plan will of course require resources from the Council and partners, something that is not quantified within the draft Plan, to achieve against objectives and steps described within. We noted that there is no dedicated budget to deliver PSB objectives, but each organisation is contributing from their resources to the delivery of shared objectives. You emphasised that organisational plans and the PSB Well-being Plan were aligned, ensuring that collectively resources are focusing on tackling these objectives, and able to stretch further with collaboration, more efficiency and avoiding duplication. It is important to see this 'golden thread' between the PSB and individual partner Plans, clearly set out in the Well-being Plan.

Your Response

We hope that you find the contents of this letter helpful and would welcome any comments, however we do not expect you to provide a formal response. However, we do expect the PSB to consider our views ahead of Plan approval. Please report our letter to the PSB Joint Committee. The Committee will follow up on the development of the Well-being Plan at our next PSB Scrutiny session, around August 2023, when we hope to be able to see the associated action plan and how performance against the Plan will be measured.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR PETER BLACK

Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

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