

Councillor Mary Jones
Convenor, Public Services Board Scrutiny
Performance Panel

Please ask for: Councillor Rob Stewart
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Our Ref: RS/KH
Your Ref:
Date: 1st November 2017

BY EMAIL

Dear Councillor Jones

PSB Scrutiny Performance Panel

Thank you for your letter dated 17th October 2017 regarding issues raised at the Performance Panel on 30 August 2017. You had requested a response in four areas, and these are listed below.

Wellbeing assessment – provide further information about the primary drivers (C2 and D1)

1. The term ‘good jobs’ originated in the Strategic Needs Assessment for the Single Integrated Plan (prior to the WFG Act), and comes from the Marmot Review ‘Fair Society, Healthy Lives’. There is an official, longer definition in the Marmot document but in the 2015 Needs Assessment it was summarised as follows:

In line with the Marmot Review, a good job is defined in terms of:

- *degree of choice (autonomy);*
- *fair wage for the skills, knowledge and tasks required;*
- *working conditions that protect and promote wellbeing.*

2. The term ‘income’ in driver D1 – ‘People meet the Minimum Income Standard’ (MIS) – refers to income from both wages and other sources, including benefits. MIS represents the cost of a basic, acceptable standard of living, the level of which varies by family type. The well-being assessment notes that 17% of people in Swansea experience income deprivation – the proportion of people with an income below a defined level, based on benefits dataⁱ. On this measure therefore, far fewer than half of Swansea’s people are in income poverty. A separate statistic (in driver C2) notes that average full-time weekly earnings in Swansea (£471 in 2016) are below those of Wales and the UK (£498 & £539). However, whilst both statistics provide some local insight into income and poverty, they are measuring separate aspects in different ways and so can’t be directly compared.

3. An average can hide major differences within an area, and the small area income deprivation statistics show this clearly. On the WIMD measure¹, income deprivation varies greatly between our most and least deprived communities; from 45% in the Townhill 1 and Townhill 3 ‘Lower Super Output Areas’ (LSOAs), to 3% in Sketty 8, Penllergaer 1, Newton 1 and Kingsbridge 2 – considerable variance from the overall Swansea average of 17%.

The well-being assessment scores did prove contentious, both conceptually and (in for some drivers) the actual scores. They can only represent a judgement rather than provide any scientific measure of overall local well-being in a driver, and their main intention was to stimulate debate and engagement, as well as provide a framework for assessing future progress.

The key findings from the assessment have had an important role in providing a wide range of evidence towards the development of the Board's emerging Well-being Plan, and informing its objectives and steps for change.

Development a communications plan for the Wellbeing Plan Consultation

Although 'schools' are not identified as a specific stakeholder in the statutory guidance on consultation for the Wellbeing Plan, the statutory guidance does refer to involving 'all persons with an interest in the maintenance and enhancement of natural resources in the Board's area, as the Board considers appropriate; any other persons who, in the opinion of the Board, are interested in the improvement of the area's economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being'- which of course will include children and young'. Swansea has a strong track record in relation to children and young people's participation and was the first city in the UK to adopt the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) as Council policy. We intend to build upon this work with children and young people and have planned a series of consultation events with children and young people in schools and other youth forums through the Big Conversation and Pupil Voices. Moreover, we intend to capitalise on the expertise we have developed in relation to children and young people's participation by developing a series of resources and training on the well-being plan for practitioners to enable the groups and networks they support to engage with the plan in an effective and meaningful way.

The Wellbeing Plan has been produced in an easy read and an accessible format. Technical documents will be hyperlinked for those people who wish to access more detailed information. The PSB have produced a draft involvement plan. The purpose of this document is to outline the partnership's approach to involvement in the long term and identifies specific actions for involvement relating to this well-being plan. The involvement plan includes a definition of different levels of involvement including: consultation, engagement, participation and co-production agreed by the partnership and a series of standards and principles informed by the Welsh Government's (WG) national standards for engagement and the UNCRC. The plan also identifies a number of stakeholders and different mechanisms for involvement which include; questionnaires, focus groups, events, semi-structured interviews and the use of social media.

Confirm that the draft Wellbeing Plan can be presented to our Panel on 13 December 2017 for discussion

We are pleased to note your request to consider the plan at your meeting on the 13th of December and have incorporated this within our involvement plan. We look forward to hearing your views about the Wellbeing Plan and your views on how the role of elected members can be developed to support and enable the people they represent in local communities take an active role in participation of the local Wellbeing Plan.

Update us about PSB discussion concerning the ending of the Communities First programme, impact and transition

The PSB Planning Group received a covering paper and the Communities First Transition Plan at their meeting 2 October. The Group discussed common themes and actions for the next steps. There were particular actions relating to working with the Police in managing the transition. Partners will be keen to hear more about the Swansea Works employability programme in due course, once the guidance and further information is released from Welsh Government.

If you need anything further, please let me know.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Stewart', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**COUNCILLOR ROB STEWART
LEADER & CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMY & STRATEGY**
