

Councillor Mary Jones
Convener – Public Services Board
Scrutiny Performance Panel

Please ask for: Councillor Rob Stewart
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Our Ref: RS/KH
Your Ref:
Date: 25th January 2018

Dear Councillor Jones

Thank you for your letter dated the 9th January 2018 and for your comments, and in particular the useful examples of collaborative opportunities (health visitors/ midwives /fire service employees identifying house issues / adaptations).

The PSB will be looking to develop a detailed Action Plan to achieve the Local Well-being Plan's objectives once the Plan has been published. As part of the current consultation the PSB are seeking stakeholders' views not only on the draft objectives but also on 'what needs to happen' to improve wellbeing (referred to in the Plan as the primary and secondary drivers). The information from the consultation process will inform the final Plan and the subsequent development of an Action Plan. The comments in your letter will contribute to this process.

In response to some of the specific issues raised in your letter.

Housing

The PSB agree that good housing can make a significant contribution to improving individual and community well-being, and recognises that housing is a cross cutting theme which underpins well-being throughout people's lives.

To reflect this Housing runs as a thread throughout the 4 objectives both implicitly and explicitly. Explicit references include:

Children have the best start in life to be the best they can be. The Plan recognises the importance a good standard of housing has in preparing parents for birth and early childhood. This is reflected through the 'what needs to happen' drivers of this Objective, in particular "*Families live in a good standard of housing and enjoy healthy family relationships*". The important contribution that good housing makes to children having good quality health and well-being will be a significant consideration when the PSB develops the Action Plan to deliver this objective.

People Live and Age well: The Plan recognises the need for people to live in safe and quality homes and the importance to this to people living and ageing well. Safe, quality

homes are considered a key driver and this is reflected in what the PSB has identified 'needs to happen' to improve well-being for this objective: *"people live in safe and quality homes"* and *"environments (including the built environment and homes) that encourage health and well-being are created, sustained and protected"*.

Improving Wellbeing by working with nature: The Plan recognises the health and well-being benefits of taking a sustainable approach to housing and the health and wellbeing. The 'what needs to happen' to improve well-being drivers include *"energy use of our building is reduced and sustainable energy generation promoted"* which creates environmental benefits by reducing the carbon footprint as well as addressing energy affordability and energy security issues. Likewise the Plan also recognises the benefits the spaces around homes has in improving health and well-being: *"inequalities in access to greenspace are reduced"* and, *"the health benefits of our green infrastructure are maximised"*.

Stronger Communities – communities which are strong and resilient with a sense of pride and belonging: The Plan recognises the importance good quality housing plays in making people feel safe and confident. This is reflected in the 'what needs to happen' driver *"homes and neighbourhoods are healthy places to be"*.

In addition to this, the housing thread will be further considered as the final Plan is developed and in the subsequent Action Plan.

Air quality

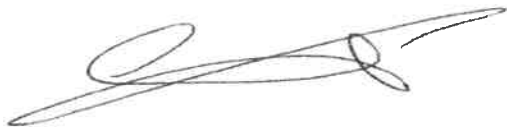
Thank you for your comments on air quality. Your comments will help with the development of the Action Plan.

Communities

The PSB agrees that encouraging neighbours and local communities to interact is important and contributes significantly to building strong communities. The term communities refers to both (1) a sense of place, i.e. people who live in the same area (which would include neighbours) and (2) people who are considered a 'unit,' due to their shared interests, values and identity. The Stronger Communities key driver *"Communities and individuals are connected"* focuses specifically on building connections and interaction. Likewise the driver for 'what needs to happen' *"Language, heritage and cultures within and between our communities are celebrated and shared"* focuses on building and celebrating relationships both within communities and between communities.

If you need anything further please let me know.

Yours sincerely



COUNCILLOR ROB STEWART
LEADER & CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMY & STRATEGY