

SUBJECT: Regional Public Service Board

MEETING: Public Services Select Committee

DATE: 27th July 2020

DIVISIONS/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide the Select Committee with an update about discussions on the feasibility and desirability of moving to a Gwent-wide Public Service Board.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The PSB brings together public service leadership and decision-makers across Monmouthshire to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the county Cardiff by strengthening joint working. Boards are established under the Well-being of Future Generations Act and are a statutory requirement.
- 2.2 Monmouthshire has worked in collaboration with the other PSBs in Gwent over a number of years on a wide-range of projects as part of the Gwent Strategic Well-being Action Group.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 This item is for information only.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 came into force in April 2016. The Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It established a statutory board known as the Public Services Board (PSB) in each LA area. In Gwent this resulted in five new PSBs.
- 4.2 Leaders of public services in Gwent have asked officers to begin developing options for a regional PSB. This is seen as a natural evolution of the informal collaborate arrangement known G10 made up of the ten statutory public bodies in Gwent.
- 4.3 A regional approach would strengthen collaboration while generating economies of scale. There would be clear benefits for regional partners such as Gwent Police and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board who presently sit on five separate PSBs in the preserved county of Gwent. It will offer opportunities to aligning the focus of both the Regional Partnership Board (RPB) and PSB that will reduce duplication of activity, align strategic priorities and enable much closer collaboration over assessment and planning processes. It would also provide a clearer focus on regional projects capitalising on a number of joint projects that have been successful in securing funding from Welsh Government.
- 4.4 Any move towards a joint PSB would provide the catalyst for a regional well-being assessment and well-being plan. There are associated risks of loss of local accountability and a lessened reduced focus on projects which are Monmouthshire specific. To mitigate this any proposals would need to be accompanied by a refresh of local partnerships arrangements. The Programme Board, which presently reports to Monmouthshire PSB, assuming a local leadership role.

4.5 At this stage there are no detailed proposals. This report is provided to give context to a verbal update that will be provided to the committee to ensure that members are sighted at the earliest opportunity and are able to engage in the development of proposals.

5. REASONS:

5.1 To improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Monmouthshire through effective collaboration with partners throughout our region.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 This report is for information. At this stage discussions are at an early stage

7. EQUALITY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

7.1 This report presents an evaluation of progress and no implications identified as a result.

8. AUTHORS:

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