

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Public Service Board Select Committee held at on Wednesday, 4th July, 2018 at 10.00 am

PRESENT: County Councillor M. Groucutt (Chair)

County Councillors: D. Blakebrough and J.Treharne

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Sharran Lloyd	LSB Development Manager
Matthew Gatehouse	Head of Policy and Governance
Hazel Clatworthy	Sustainability Policy Officer
Wendy Barnard	Democratic Services Officer
Richard Jones	Policy and Performance Officer

APOLOGIES:

County Councillors D. Batrouni, M.Feakins, J.Pratt and F. Taylor

1. To elect a Chair

County Councillor M. Groucutt was elected as Chair.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

3. Public Open Forum

No members of the public were present.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd January 2018

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd January 2018 were confirmed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

5. Regional Well-being work

Purpose:

To provide a brief update about work happening at a regional level to build on wellbeing assessments and inform well-being plans.

Recommendations:

Members are invited to use this update to enhance their understanding of how regional working can help the Public Service Board (PSB) meet the requirements of The Act.

Key Issues:

1 The Well-being of Future Generations Act came into force in April 2016. It requires public bodies to carry out sustainable development. This means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in

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accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals.

2. Officers representing the five Public Service Boards in Gwent have been meeting in the Gwent Wide Strategic Well-being Assessment Group to share learning and identify opportunities to collaborate on areas of common interest. This work initially focused on the development of the well-being assessment and has continued to strengthen the development and implementation of well-being plans. It has also been an opportunity to work with colleagues leading on the implementation of The Social Services and Well-being Act.

3. On 28th February 2017 Welsh Government made available £74,026 of funding for the five PSBs in the Gwent area to undertake work to build on work completed as part of the assessments and to help build towards the development of the well-being plan.

4. Gwent partners identified two areas of focus: To develop enhanced measurement of well-being at the local population level and to commission further work on future trends which was an area that was commonly identified as needing development in the majority of the well-being assessments in Wales. An update on the progress with the two pieces of work is provided below:

Happy Communities

5. The five Public Service Boards within Gwent region have jointly agreed to use the Happy Communities tools in order to better measure, understand and improve the wellbeing of their populations. Happy Communities provides two tools: the Happy Communities Index (now called Thriving Places Index in Wales) which measures the local conditions for community well-being and the Happiness Pulse which is a measure of personal well-being.

6. The Index draws on a number of indicators from various sources to understand and assess the local determinants of well-being and where to target interventions to create the conditions for people to thrive. Following initial work in Gwent on the thriving places index, Data Cymru have worked with Happy City, and the five Public Service Boards across Gwent, to adapt the tool for the different context and data available in Wales and expanded it to include all local authorities in Wales. Data Cymru published their first release of the Thriving Places Wales Index in April 2018.

www.thrivingplaces.wales/

7. The Index is a framework of local authority level indicators which builds a picture of an area summarised under the broad headings of local conditions, sustainability and equality. The Scores within Thriving Places Wales are shown at a local authority area level, however they do not measure the success, or otherwise, of individual organisations because the measures used in Thriving Places Wales cover such a wide range of issues, they fall way beyond the responsibility or remit of any single organisation, or group of organisations. Much of the information for Monmouthshire reflects the analysis presented in the well-being assessment and where Monmouthshire's well-being scores are lower this is mainly in domains that align with the issues the PSB has focussed its objectives on.

8. The Happiness Pulse measures personal well-being in communities through a resident survey. The survey provides a well-being score for people who completed the survey under three areas, Be, Do and Connect and helps people understand how to improve their well-being. The survey was carried out across the five Gwent PSB areas in January and February 2018 and was launched with the 'beating the blues' campaign. Extensive promotion was undertaken across Gwent, in Monmouthshire this included a variety of activities in local communities to help residents beat the winter blues. A range of methods were used to inform and engage residents, including, press releases, social media, making the survey available in Community Hubs across the County and working in partnership with PSB partners to encourage as many residents as possible to complete the survey. In collaboration with Monmouthshire Youth Service and Engage 2 Change (E2C), the County Youth Forum, a short film was produced for social media. Young people from local schools and a variety of community group including Action 50+ and The Access for All meeting were all encouraged to contribute.

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9. In Monmouthshire a total of 1,178 resident and 462 Monmouthshire County Council staff responses have been collected. An analysis of the data by Happy Cities is awaited to understand the demographic breakdown of the results, evaluate well-being within Monmouthshire and allow comparisons with other areas in Gwent. We will also be able to investigate if we can utilise these results to better understand well-being in specific areas in Monmouthshire. Further analysis will be produced when the results of the Happiness Pulse survey are available and are able to complement the Thriving Places Wales Index. This analysis will also be used to inform local decision making including the development and monitoring of the PSB well-being plan action plan. Consideration will be given to how to communicate this to members of the public and staff who contributed with their experiences of well-being in Monmouthshire, as well as reporting the analysis back to the PSB and PSB scrutiny committee.

Member Scrutiny:

The Performance Manager introduced the report then Select Committee Members asked questions:

- A Member enquired how happiness levels were tested and it was explained that the Happiness Pulse is used to measure wellbeing based on factors that have an influence on an individual's wellbeing e.g. social interaction, physical activity, charitable work. It was accepted that the survey represents a snapshot as feelings of happiness can change over even quite short periods of time.
- Regarding response rate, 1.28% of the population responded (not including staff). When more survey results are available from other authorities in Wales and England, it will be possible to draw comparisons.
- It was questioned if the survey was exclusively been carried out online and confirmed that the survey was made available in a range of formats such as online, paper surveys in Hubs, engagement with groups e.g. Youth Forum, Engage to Change and Action 50+. The survey was promoted on social media.
- It was confirmed that the focus is not to track the wellbeing of individuals but is a broader measure of wellbeing.
- Two thirds of responses were from females. The age profile of respondents was:

Responses by age group	
Under 16	22
16-24	65
25-34	118
35-49	369
50-64	399
65-74	153
Over 75	50

- The Chair reminded that one of the Monmouthshire Public Service Board priorities is to ensure that children are getting the best possible start in life. With the involvement of the SE Wales Education Achievement Service (EAS) in SE Wales and a regional approach, it was questioned how Monmouthshire's priorities will be adequately served. It was responded that the evolving regional approach will highlight differences in regional footprints and the involvement of partners won't be consistent e.g. city deal involves 10 authorities and the EAS covers 5. The core business of CYP Directorate will be distinct from any topics identified across the region that would be better served by partners working collaboratively.

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- The suggestion that sixth form students could be involved in carrying out surveys was welcomed noting that the PSB Engagement and Participation Group actively considers means of maximising opportunities.

Committee Conclusion

The Select Committee appreciated the update to enhance their understanding of how regional working can help the Public Service Board (PSB) meet the requirements of The Act, and thanked the officers for introducing the report accordingly.

6. Well-being Plan: Emerging Priorities and Actions

Purpose:

To provide the committee with an update on the emerging actions being developed to deliver the objectives contained in Monmouthshire's Well-being Plan. This provides further detail on the steps that were published within the plan and which have been subject to further development by all partners of the Public Service Board ahead of its next meeting on 17th July.

Recommendations:

1. Members of the committee are invited to scrutinise the emerging actions and timescales and consider whether they are the right things to deliver the objectives specified within the Well-being Plan.
2. Members of the committee are invited to bring forward further recommendations which could be presented to the PSB alongside this work and which could deliver the steps.
3. The committee may identify any of these areas for further scrutiny as part of its work programme. It may request attendance from any partner within the PSB to inform members understanding of the steps being taken and to seek assurance of the effectiveness of the partnership arrangements.

Key Issues

1. The Well-being of Future Generations Act aims to ensure that public bodies think more about the long term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach. Each PSB must prepare and publish a local well-being plan setting out its local objectives and the steps it proposes to take to meet them.
2. The PSB has approved four well-being objectives that underpin a clear purpose of building sustainable and resilient communities. The objectives are:
 - Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life
 - Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change
 - Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change
 - Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.
3. The issues within the plan are complex and there are no clear answers or quick solutions to address them. The 'steps' within the plan give an indication of the work the PSB will deliver or commission. Each of the partners has assumed responsibility for exploring the steps and beginning to turn them into more specific actions which the PSB can then prioritise. This is necessary as the organisations do not have the capacity to work on all 19 of these at the same time.
4. The lead partner for each step was provided with a range of information to inform the development of the step, including a briefing paper outlining the PSB's approach and key questions that need to be considered in developing the step. Details of the process and guidance are included as appendix 3 to this report. The insight gathered so far was also

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provided, this included evidence from the Well-being Assessment, feedback from partnerships, the Future Generations Commissioner and responses to the consultation on the Well-being Plan.

5. Each partner has been further developing the evidence base and exploring potential solutions that could move us towards delivery against the outcomes in the plan. This has included discussions with experts in these areas. Ahead of Select Committee each partner has been asked to specify:

- The vision or ambition for each step in two or three sentences thinking about the impact on communities
- Whether the work at the exploration/research stage or moving towards action?
- When the work would be expected to start if approved by PSB which could be either steps in the process or actions in communities.
- When would we expect there to be an impact that people notice

At time of circulation this is not in place for all steps. An update on outstanding activities will be provided at the meeting.

6. Delivering the steps will also need to be done in an integrated way. Some steps in Appendix 1 have been combined where there is strong integration with the actions being taken to address the issues in each step. Work to progress each of the steps will inevitably impact on other steps, and some of the steps are likely to be developed together to reduce the likelihood of “silo working”. Consideration will also need to be given to how the aspirations of the PSB, which are crosscutting, are integrated when progressing the steps. The matrix in appendix 2 demonstrates how the steps (summarised on the axis) will impact on each other, with the most significant impacts shaded in blue, this integration will need to continue to be reviewed as the action to address each step is developed.

7. Lead partners for some steps are still further developing the evidence base and exploring potential solutions and information on the progress made on some steps has not yet been provided to inform this report, as shown in appendix 1. The information for the remaining steps will be circulated to the committee when available.

8. At its next meeting the PSB will begin the process of sequencing these steps to ensure that they are the right things to be doing and being delivered in a logical order and in accordance with the available resources and time commitments required to make them happen. As the work develops further performance measures and milestones will be established against each of these to that partners can be held to account for delivery.

Member Scrutiny:

The Head of Policy and Governance introduced the report and invited questions and comments:

- The Chair enquired if the Public Service Board (PSB) Select Committee had powers to invite partner organisations to its meetings to ask questions, and secondly asked if the partners have their own scrutiny processes. It was clarified that the PSB Select Committee has scrutiny powers because the local authority has statutory responsibility for the oversight and governance of the PSB.
- A Member queried the absence of an integrated public transport system adding that better transport links would help to address PSB priorities and questioned the next steps in Monmouthshire, and what strategy would be used to ensure it's an integral part of PSB work. The relationship between the PSB and Monmouthshire Strategic Transport Group was queried.

It was responded that transport is consistently raised by all age groups and development of technological solutions to rural transport, and the promotion of active and sustainable travel is key. It was explained that the Council made a bid to the Cabinet Office Digital Service to set up a Challenge Fund to develop technical solutions to address loneliness and rural transport. Private companies are being invited to participate in a competition to

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develop solutions to connect communities. This matter is also under consideration by Cardiff Capital Region. Ultimately, the aspiration is to have a fully integrated transport system in the County.

The Member queried timelines and was informed that the project was launched on 3rd July 2018, the GovTech competition launched on 16th July 2018 followed by a launch event, and closes on the 5th September 2018. An assessment panel will consider initial ideas for 2/3 weeks and first allocations of funding will be disbursed to five firms over an 8/10 week period. A further assessment panel will select two of the five projects to proceed as pilots working towards a viable solution by the end of 2019.

- The Chair was interested in projects to address PSB priorities such as the best possible start for children, addressing physical inactivity and obesity and promoting active and safe communities and sought ways to collaborate with the Health Board e.g. on transport. He welcomed the opportunity to question partner organisations, and urged that timescales are applied as soon as possible.
- A Member emphasised that healthy food is not always cheap and asked how the authority can engage with supermarkets to provide cheaper healthier food for families that cannot otherwise afford it. It was responded that schools do an excellent job of educating young people about healthy eating choices. It was explained that opportunities to explore sustainable and healthier food options within the County to maximise local supply chains and community led innovative approaches.
- Regarding the competition, a Member asked if there was an opportunity to scrutinise companies at the Research and Development stage. It was noted that there will be opportunities for engagement and to scrutinise chosen projects at a later stage. It was also confirmed that it is a nationwide competition and incentives will be available e.g. office space if the company wishes to relocate.
- Members promoted the need for excellent broadband, and added their disappointment that Monmouthshire was bottom of the list in the Welsh Government roll out of broadband.
- A Member asked the following questions:

“What is the PSB’s vision in the Short, Medium and longer term?” - It was responded that the Steps show the Council’s ambitions and timescales e.g. digital solutions for rural transport. It was noted that some steps are more aspirational and more detail will follow in due course.

“What measures in the Short, Medium and Long term will you be implementing? – It was explained that, in the Wellbeing Plan, there are 46 measures alongside the Wellbeing Pulse. .

“What are the timescales for implementing the Short, Medium and Long term measures?” - Each project will have specific measures and milestones to measure progress and impact.

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“What data will you be utilising to continually evaluate the effectiveness of the measures and targets you propose” – We will be looking at targeted outcomes for specifically identified individuals/groups.

Committee Conclusion

The recommendations were accepted and the Select Committee looks forward to developing the scrutiny role and inviting representatives of partner organisations to attend meetings to report on progress.

Additionally, it was requested that there is some clarity about how to develop the scrutiny role with commercial organisations.

Timescales for projects were also requested to enable more effective scrutiny.

The Officers were congratulated for setting worthwhile projects in motion.

7. Minutes of PSB meetings

The minutes of the PSB Meeting held on 4th April were noted.

Committee Conclusion

The Chair, on behalf of the PSB Select Committee, expressed his concern at the large number of apologies for absence and that 50% of those who did not attend failed to send a representative.

8. To note the date and time of the next meeting as 10th October 2018

The meeting ended at 11.30 am