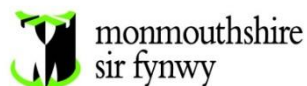


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County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Date Not Specified

Notice of meeting

Public Services Select Committee

Monday, 5th July, 2021 at 10.00 am,
County Hall, Usk with Remote Attendance

AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	To elect a Chair.	
2.	Apologies for absence.	
3.	Declarations of Interest.	
4.	Public Open Forum.	
5.	Regional Collaboration: Gwent Public Services Board Purpose: To provide the Select Committee with an update on the proposals that have been developed to move to a Gwent-wide Public Service Board and an update on the process for developing the next Well-being Assessment and Well-being Plan. Authors: Richard Jones, Sharran Lloyd	1 - 36
6.	Public Service Board Well-being Plan Annual Report Purpose: To provide the Select Committee with the opportunity to scrutinise the draft Public Service Board Annual Report which describes progress made towards delivering the board's well-being objectives during 2020-21. Authors: Richard Jones, Sharran Lloyd	37 - 38
7.	To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th November 2020.	39 - 46
8.	To consider the Select Committee's forward work programme.	47 - 48

9.	To note the date and time of the next meeting: To be confirmed.	
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Paul Matthews

Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr

**MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY**

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillor Dimitri Batrouni	St. Christophers;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Paul Jordan	Cantref;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Simon Howarth	Llanelly Hill;	Independent Group
County Councillor Richard Roden	Dixton with Osbaston;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Tudor Thomas	Priory;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jamie Treharne	Overmonnow;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Sheila Woodhouse	Grofield;	Welsh Conservative Party

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Welsh Language

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public through the medium of Welsh or English. We respectfully ask that you provide us with adequate notice to accommodate your needs.

Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Our purpose

Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Objectives we are working towards

- Giving people the best possible start in life
- A thriving and connected county
- Maximise the Potential of the natural and built environment
- Lifelong well-being
- A future focused council

Our Values

Openness. We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer immediately we'll try to connect you to the people who can help – building trust and engagement is a key foundation.

Fairness. We provide fair chances, to help people and communities thrive. If something does not seem fair, we will listen and help explain why. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently. We cannot always make everyone happy, but will commit to listening and explaining why we did what we did.

Flexibility. We will continue to change and be flexible to enable delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.

Teamwork. We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone to get involved so we can achieve great things together. We don't see ourselves as the 'fixers' or problem-solvers, but we will make the best of the ideas, assets and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.

Role of the Pre-meeting	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why is the Committee scrutinising this? (background, key issues) 2. What is the Committee's role and what outcome do Members want to achieve? 3. Is there sufficient information to achieve this? If not, who could provide this? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agree the order of questioning and which Members will lead - Agree questions for officers and questions for the Cabinet Member 	
Questions for the Meeting	
<u>Scrutinising Performance</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does performance compare with previous years? Is it better/worse? Why? 2. How does performance compare with other councils/other service providers? Is it better/worse? Why? 3. How does performance compare with set targets? Is it better/worse? Why? 4. How were performance targets set? Are they challenging enough/realistic? 5. How do service users/the public/partners view the performance of the service? 6. Have there been any recent audit and inspections? What were the findings? 7. How does the service contribute to the achievement of corporate objectives? 8. Is improvement/decline in performance linked to an increase/reduction in resource? What capacity is there to improve? 	<u>Scrutinising Policy</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who does the policy affect ~ directly and indirectly? Who will benefit most/least? 2. What is the view of service users/stakeholders? Do they believe it will achieve the desired outcome? 3. What is the view of the community as a whole - the 'taxpayer' perspective? 4. What methods were used to consult with stakeholders? Did the process enable all those with a stake to have their say? 5. What practice and options have been considered in developing/reviewing this policy? What evidence is there to inform what works? 6. Does this policy align to our corporate objectives, as defined in our corporate plan? 7. Have all relevant sustainable development, equalities and safeguarding implications been taken into consideration? For example, what are <i>the procedures that need to be in place to protect children?</i> 8. How much will this cost to implement and what funding source has been identified? 9. How will performance of the policy be measured and the impact evaluated.
Questions for the Committee to conclude...	
<p>Do we have the necessary information to form conclusions/make recommendations to the executive, council, other partners? If not, do we need to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Investigate the issue in more detail? (ii) Obtain further information from other witnesses – Executive Member, independent expert, members of the local community, service users, regulatory bodies... (iii) Agree further actions to be undertaken within a timescale/future monitoring report... 	
General Questions....	
<u>Empowering Communities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are we involving local communities and empowering them to design and deliver services to suit local need? • Do we have regular discussions with communities about service priorities and what level of service the council can afford to provide in the future? 	

Service Demands

- How will policy and legislative change affect how the council operates?
- Have we considered the demographics of our council and how this will impact on service delivery and funding in the future?

Financial Planning

- Do we have robust medium and long-term financial plans in place?
- Are we linking budgets to plans and outcomes and reporting effectively on these?

Making savings and generating income

- Do we have the right structures in place to ensure that our efficiency, improvement and transformational approaches are working together to maximise savings?
- How are we maximising income? Have we compared other council's policies to maximise income and fully considered the implications on service users?
- Do we have a workforce plan that takes into account capacity, costs, and skills of the actual versus desired workforce?

SUBJECT: Regional Collaboration: Gwent Public Services Board

MEETING: Public Services Select Committee

DATE: 5th July 2021

DIVISIONS/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide the Select Committee with an update on the proposals that have been developed to move to a Gwent-wide Public Service Board.
- 1.2 To provide the Select Committee with an update on the process for developing the next Well-being Assessment and Well-being Plan.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The intention of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act is to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, by taking action in accordance with the sustainable development principle aimed at achieving seven national well-being goals.
- 2.2 The Act puts a well-being duty on specified public bodies to act jointly via Public Services Boards (PSB) to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of their area by contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals. Public services boards' contribution to the achievement of the goals must include:
 - assessing the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in their areas;
 - setting local objectives that are designed to maximise their contribution within their areas to achieving those goals;
 - the taking of all reasonable steps by statutory members of boards (in exercising their functions) to meet those objectives
- 2.3 The Monmouthshire Public Service Board, a statutory board under the Act, was established to fulfil this role in Monmouthshire and subsequently developed a Monmouthshire Well-being Assessment and agreed a Monmouthshire Well-being Plan and objectives that board members are working on for 2018-2023.
- 2.4 The Act specifies two or more public services boards may agree to merge or collaborate if they consider it would assist them in contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals. Where boards decide to merge or collaborate, a clear rationale for reaching that determination should be formally documented and considered. The board was created by statute rather than a vote at council and the power to merge sits with boards themselves without the need for ratification by individual bodies.
- 2.5 Two reviews of partnership working, the 'Review of Public Services Boards' by Audit Wales and 'Review of Strategic Partnerships' by Welsh Government both make recommendations related to better alignment and flexible models of working across partnership structures.
- 2.6 In July 2020 an update was provided to Public Services Select Committee that leaders of public services in Gwent, have asked officers to begin developing options for a regional PSB. The options would consider how a regional approach would look to strengthen collaboration, the possibilities of generating economies of scale while maintaining the importance of localised partnership delivery. The Committee expressed their overall support for the move to a regional PSB to be explored.

- 2.7 Development work has been led by G10, the informal collaborate arrangement made up of the ten statutory public bodies in Gwent. This report provides an update on the arrangements developed to merge the five current Public Services Boards to form a Gwent-Wide PSB to assist in contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals, and the related development of remaining local delivery arrangements in Monmouthshire.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To examine the effectiveness of arrangements proposed to create a Gwent-wide Public Service Board and subsequent development of partnership arrangements in Monmouthshire.
- 3.2 To examine the proposed regional scrutiny arrangements for The Board and make any recommendations to inform the development of the regional arrangements and ensure effective oversight and scrutiny by councillors.
- 3.3 The committee is invited to provide feedback on the approach to the development of the well-being assessment and plan in Monmouthshire.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The development of proposals for a Gwent wide PSB has involved each of the existing boards across the region and representatives from public bodies under the direction of G10. A range of areas have been considered as part of the developments including reviewing legislative requirements, regional and local delivery options, scrutiny, alignment of regional boards and performance management arrangements, along with the well-being assessment and plan.
- 4.2 The main opportunities identified through this work for a Gwent-wide merged PSB include:
- Improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being across the region by collaborating on administration and back-office activities freeing up more time to focus on delivering the things that matter
 - Enabling partners, such as ABuHB, Gwent Police and Natural Resources Wales, that currently sit on five boards, making more effective use of their capacity
 - Ensuring a more strategic and consistent overview of the legislative responsibilities that sit with PSBs such as the Crime and Disorder Act, Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) and the Childrens Act
 - A strengthened focus on regional activity on common issues such as climate change, mental health and obesity to improve the well-being of citizens throughout Gwent. Creating capacity in Monmouthshire partnership arrangements to focus on local well-being issues in the knowledge that the legislative and governance aspects, along with the regional priorities, are being managed by the Gwent PSB.
 - Providing the catalyst for a regional well-being assessment and well-being plan that maintains local delivery and accountability.
 - Opportunity of aligning the focus of both the Regional Partnership Board (RPB) and PSB that will reduce duplication of activity, align strategic priorities and much closer collaboration over assessment and planning processes.
 - Supporting the Welsh Government review on 'strategic partnerships' and specifically recommendation 3 of the recent Audit Wales review of Public Services Boards.
- 4.3 The main challenges identified through this work for a Gwent-wide merged PSB that would need to be managed include:
- Potentially not meeting statutory obligations should arrangements not be sufficiently robust and integrated clearly with all partners. Work has been progressed collaboratively with all PSBs in Gwent and included ongoing liaison with Welsh Government and the Future Generations Commissioners Office to mitigate this;
 - Not maximising the opportunity for aligning partnership legislation and activity, this requires commitment from a range of other strategic partnerships;

- May not lead to economies of scale across all PSB partnership working, while this will reduce and strengthen strategic links for the PSB at a Gwent level, delivery would need to continue locally through delivery partners and community links within local authority boundaries and local accountability will be maintained;
- A potential loss of local accountability and reduced focus on projects, which are area specific that need to be mitigated. A review and refresh of local partnerships arrangements is being developed and clear governance and direction from the regional PSB will be required to reduce this risk.

- 4.4 Informed by this work there is a collective view that a regional approach will assist the PSB in contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals and improving the well-being of people across Gwent. The direction from senior leaders at G10 is to merge the five Public Services Boards into one Gwent-wide PSB by September 2021. All five existing Public Services Boards in Gwent are supportive of the approach in principle, Monmouthshire Public Service board will take the decision on merging, informed by this development work, at its next meeting in July 2021.
- 4.5 When formed, a number of elements of the delivery and governance arrangements of the Public Service Board will need further development to ensure it maximises the opportunities identified, mitigates as far as possible potential risks and meets its statutory duties and requirements under well-being of Future Generations Act. The latest planning on some of these arrangements is summarised below. Appendix 2 contains further information of the progress with these to ensure members of all five local authorities have access to the same information. An integral part of a regional approach is maintaining a focus on local partnership delivery and delivery. The proposals below outline how arrangements will be developed to support the continued delivery of Monmouthshire specific projects to improve well-being and maintain local accountability, including the role of Public Services Select Committee.
- 4.6 In coordination with senior leaders of public services through G10 arrangements are being progressed to take decisions on merging PSBs in Gwent through individual member's organisational governance structures as appropriate, with the intention for the first Gwent-wide PSB to meet in September 2021. This will be presented to Monmouthshire County Council Cabinet on 28th July 2021. Appendix 1 provides an overview timeline of key processes.

Governance

- 4.7 At its first meeting the PSB will consider its terms of reference and membership, see the draft Terms of Reference at Appendix 3. Set in the legislation are statutory partners and statutory invitees who form the Board. The PSB may also invite any other organisation to join that may help the achievement of its objectives. Terms of reference for working with local delivery partnerships in each local area will also be considered, further information is in the local delivery arrangements section.
- 4.8 There are ongoing discussions on developing scrutiny arrangements with scrutiny managers across Gwent. The discussions are considering how arrangements will function including the formation of regional scrutiny, the continued scrutiny of current well-being plans and ongoing scrutiny of local level PSB activity once the new regional board is formed. This will need to ensure the effective scrutiny of the developing regional well-being assessment and delivery of the aspirations and commitments in regional Well-being Plan that will be published in June 2023. See timeline in Appendix 1.
- 4.9 In Monmouthshire the Public Services Select Committee has broadened its remit to focus on collaborative activity including but not limited to the PSB. This means the committee scrutinises and constructively challenge, where powers allow, the work and effectiveness of strategic partnerships (including local delivery under the Public Service Board) and other public service providers to ensure public accountability of collaborative services and improved outcomes for people in Monmouthshire. This role will continue. The committee will also continue to scrutinise the progress of the existing Monmouthshire Well-being Plan up until 2023.

- 4.10 There are a multitude of partnerships across the Gwent region that have been established in line with policy, programme or legislative drivers. Connectedness and alignment of these boards could be improved and maximised under a Gwent-wide PSB. The Gwent PSB, working closely alongside the Gwent Regional Partnership Board, which oversees regional activity under the Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014, has the opportunity to reduce duplication, maximise resources, identify shared priorities and achieve closer alignment of policy, programme and legislative agendas, which would potentially improve outcomes for citizens across Gwent. Further work is required to map the various boards, key drivers and governance across Gwent. See Appendix 4.
- 4.11 A robust performance framework is essential to ensure accountability for the delivery of partnership activity that improves outcomes and delivers the statutory duties, objectives and priorities of the PSB. This will be closely linked to the development of other parts of the PSB governance arrangements including scrutiny arrangements, terms of reference, other Regional Boards and Local Delivery Partnerships.

Well-being Assessment and Plan

- 4.12 The development of a regional approach provides the catalyst for Gwent-wide, well-being assessment and well-being plan that maintains local accountability. As part of the planning, officers from across public bodies and all five PSBs in Gwent been developing proposals for an integrated and collaborative approach to undertaking the Well-being Assessment.
- 4.13 This will build on existing individual area Well-being Assessments and will be structured around the four areas of well-being – social, economic, environmental and cultural. The assessment will use a wide range of qualitative and quantitative information including data, academic research, evidence and people's views (engagement) to help understand well-being in Gwent. The assessment will take an asset based approach, rather than focussing purely on need, to build upon and identify the strengths of both individuals and communities and also identify problems and challenges that need to be addressed. The assessment will identify future trends and potential disruptions, whether positive or negative, so that we can maximise the well-being of future generations.
- 4.14 A regional engagement group are developing a common set of questions, and associated framework, to undertake the community engagement element of the local assessment of well-being in a consistent manner. This will allow the engagement response to be aggregated up to Gwent information as well providing insight at a local community area level to inform well-being planning. This will build on the previous engagement undertaken in the first assessment. In Monmouthshire we undertook an extensive community engagement exercise to test whether the data reflected peoples' lived experiences – through the 'Our Monmouthshire' engagement. As well as online surveys, a range of different engagement methods were used. Building on this and engaging effectively, abiding with coronavirus guidance, is a vital part of the assessment.
- 4.15 Each local authority area will have responsibility for undertaking their local community area assessment that will integrate with the regional Gwent assessment. Monmouthshire is geographically large compared to other areas in the region. It is semi-rural in nature and is often perceived as leafy and affluent. However headline statistics can fail to shine a light on the differences within and between communities. Assessing the well-being of each community is intended to ensure that the differences between the various communities within the board's area are analysed. The Assessment will be based around the same five clusters in Monmouthshire used in the first wellbeing assessment: Abergavenny and surrounding area; Monmouth and surrounding area; the heart of Monmouthshire which includes Usk and Raglan; Chepstow and the Lower Wye Valley and Severnside which includes Caldicot and Magor. Analysis may also use lower level data. This will also assess well-being at a Monmouthshire level which is deemed important locally.
- 4.16 The existing Monmouthshire Well-being Plan sets the objectives and steps for partnership working for the PSB up until 2023. There is a need to continue to focus on the delivery of these to

ensure we do not lose focus between now and the publication of the regional plan. This plan will continue to be delivered by local partnership arrangements in Monmouthshire.

- 4.17 A new Gwent Well-being Plan will be developed by 2023 in line with the requirements of the well-being of future Generations Act. This is likely to set overarching well-being objectives which will be met by regional and local activity. There are likely also to be local actions, reflecting the differences in needs for well-being across different areas in Gwent, which will be particular to a locality and determined by more local evidence in the well-being assessment. The Local Delivery Partnerships, further information is in the local delivery arrangements section, will be tasked with contributing to the regional actions as well as delivering any specific local activity.

Local Delivery arrangements

- 4.18 An integral part of the development of a Gwent-wide PSB has been ensuring there remains a focus on continued delivery of projects which are local area specific and maintaining local accountability. To ensure this the case a refresh of local partnerships arrangements in Monmouthshire will be undertaken, with the Programme Board, which presently reports to Monmouthshire PSB, assuming a local leadership role. Work is being progressed with the existing Programme Board and Monmouthshire PSB to develop these, and appendix 1 provides the development phases required to ensure the Programme Board is fully functional and equipped to provide the strategic guidance and oversight locally in Monmouthshire whilst also integrating with and influencing the regional PSB approaches. The Programme Board will also be required to deliver against the current local Monmouthshire Wellbeing Plan until 2023, when the next phase of the Wellbeing Plan will be developed as outlined.
- 4.19 A new Gwent Well-being Plan in 2023 is likely to set overarching well-being objectives which will be met by regional and local activity. The developed Programme Board in Monmouthshire will lead Monmouthshire's role in local delivery of regional actions as well as delivering activity specific to Monmouthshire, ensuring the well-being needs of Monmouthshire are prioritised locally and integrated in regional delivery as appropriate.

5. REASONS:

- 5.1 To ensure that effective arrangements are in place to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of our county and region and deliver the aspirations outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations Act and meet the associated legislative requirements set out in the underpinning statutory guidance.
- 5.2 To ensure accountability of the Public Service Board through the appropriate governance, performance and overview and scrutiny arrangements.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The formation of a Gwent-wide PSB will lead to some economies of scale by reducing the number of PSB's from five to one. This also offers the opportunity to improve oversight and coordination of funding opportunities.
- 6.2 While this will reduce meetings and strengthen strategic links for the PSB at a Gwent level, this will need to be supported and suitably resourced along with equally supporting and resourcing delivery that will continue locally through delivery partnerships. Administering PSBs is a responsibility that falls to the local authority members. It is proposed that the administration of the Gwent PSB rotates around the five local authority members.
- 6.3 Welsh Government grant funding has been made available annually to Public Services Boards to use regionally in Gwent to build strategic capacity and capability to support the preparation of the well-being assessments as well as consolidate work on the well-being plans. Funding of up to £77,727 is confirmed for the 2021/22 financial year. With the potential to apply for further funding to support PSBs that have decided to merge.

- 6.4 In Monmouthshire there is a need to ensure there is the skills and capacity to support and lead local partnership delivery and contribute to delivery and support, including taking a lead role on some arrangements, of the Gwent-wide PSB. This has been identified as resource neutral but there may be a need for temporary additional capacity during years when the rotation for administrative support arrangements sits with Monmouthshire.

7. EQUALITY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 A regional approach will assist the PSB in contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals. An Equality and Future Generations Evaluation has been completed and is attached in Appendix 5

8. AUTHORS:

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Appendix 1 – Timeline of Gwent Regional PSB formation, including development of local arrangements in Monmouthshire, and development of Well-being Assessment and Plan

Date	Item
Mar 2021	Gwent PSB approach agreed by G10
Dec/ Apr 2021	Proposal taken to each PSB to detail the decision to move to a regional PSB and how this will be done Plans for local arrangements discussed Agreement from each PSB for this to go ahead
Apr/ Jul 2021	Report to each LA scrutiny committee Report to Monmouthshire County Council Cabinet Regional scrutiny process agreed. Formally agreed by each Local Authority/ organisation as required
Apr/Sep 2021	Programme Board to review its current structures, membership and processes. Agree new purpose and ways of working to hold 'accountability' locally of the existing Wellbeing plan and priorities Monmouthshire PSB to provide guidance on membership of Programme Board
Apr – Oct 2021	PSB Officers to draft Gwent Wellbeing Assessment
Jul – Sept 2021	PSB to undertake a public engagement process for the Wellbeing Assessment
Jun – Jul 2021	Final PSBs are held in each area Paper on local arrangements agreed and signed off by each PSB Terms of Reference for the regional PSB drafted Date for first regional PSB is set lead coordinating Local Authority agreed
Sept 2021	Regional PSB is created - First meeting must be held within 60 days (30th October). The first meeting will need to be chaired by an LA lead, Terms of Reference for the regional PSB formally signed off
Nov 2021	Consultation Draft Assessment agreed by PSB
Dec 2021 – Jan 2022	Consultation Period for the Wellbeing Assessment for all stakeholders
Feb 2022 – Mar 2022	Redrafting Wellbeing Assessment in light of consultation
Apr 2022	Final version of Wellbeing Assessment agreed by Gwent PSB
May 2022	Publish Wellbeing Assessment
May 2022 – Oct 2022	PSB to develop response analysis to inform the Wellbeing Plan PSB to develop Local Wellbeing Plan
Nov 2022 – Jan 2023	Statutory Consultation of the Wellbeing Plan
Feb 2023 – Mar 2023	Redrafting Wellbeing Plan
Apr 2023	Final version of Wellbeing Plan agreed by Gwent PSB
May 2023	Publish Wellbeing Plan -

Appendix 2

This is the report produced by regional partners. The key issues are summarized in the covering report to the Monmouthshire select committee. It is included here to ensure transparency



SUBJECT: Progress report - Regional PSB

Report written and submitted by: GSWAG Governance Group for G10
 Authors: Tracy McKim, Policy and Partnership Manager, Newport City Council.
 Kathryn Peters - Corporate Policy Manager Caerphilly County Borough Council

1	Areas Affected
1.1	Gwent
2	Purpose of Report
2.1	<p>To update members on the development of a regional 'Gwent' PSB, and the next round of the Assessment of Local Well-being and Local Well-being Plans and to note any relevant governance changes required for the local authority and its committees.</p> <p>The report is being received by partnership Scrutiny Committees across Gwent for awareness and Cabinet/ Council for note and decision making as appropriate.</p>
3	Background
3.1	<p>The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act sets out a collective well-being duty on specified public bodies to act jointly via public services boards (PSBs) to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of their area by contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals.</p> <p>As part of this collective well-being duty, the PSB must:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and publish an assessment of the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in each community, and in the area as a whole, to be published no later than a year before its local well-being plan. • Prepare and publish a local well-being plan setting out its local objectives and the steps it proposes to take to meet them, published no later than 12 months after each local election. <p>The first local well-being assessments were published in May 2017. The first local well-being plans were published in May 2018 for Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen. The next round of the well-being assessment and well-being plan are due to be published in May 2022 and May 2023 respectively.</p>
3.2	<p>The Act also provides for two or more PSBs to be able to merge if it would assist them in contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals. There have been discussions at the Gwent wide leadership group 'G10' and at each PSB about the merger of the Gwent PSBs to form a single regional PSB. The decision to do this must be agreed by each of the individual PSBs as the statutory bodies.</p> <p>Each PSB in the Gwent region has agreed this in principle. The PSBs and G10 have also considered the importance of maintaining strong local partnerships in each area to support delivery of the Well-Being Plan and also other partnership work.</p>
3.3	<p>The drivers for the change to a regional approach and Plan considered by the G10 leadership were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving the well-being of people across Gwent by strengthening governance, accountability, improving collaborative working and supporting a clearer partnership landscape; • providing the catalyst for a regional well-being assessment and well-being plan that maintains local accountability. • opportunities to align partnership legislation and PSB statutory duties for a more strategic overview of areas such the Crime and Disorder Act, Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) and the Childrens Act. • opportunity to develop regional scrutiny arrangements. • opportunity of aligning the focus of both the Regional Partnership Board (RPB) and PSB that will reduce duplication of activity, align strategic priorities and much closer collaboration over assessment, planning and delivery functions. • The approach supports the Welsh Government review on 'strategic partnerships' and specifically recommendation 3 of the recent Audit Wales Review of Public Services Boards¹.

¹ Recommendation 3 of the WAO Review of Public Services Boards includes '...that Welsh Government enables flexible models for merging, reducing and integrating their work with other forums such as Regional Partnership Boards; and – giving PSBs flexibility to receive, manage and spend grant monies...'

	There is a range of effective partnership work which takes place through the G10 leaders group and subgroup GSWAG (Gwent Strategic Well-being Action Group) which has also attracted funding through Welsh Government and delivery of work such as 'climate ready Gwent' however there is not one strategic direction for this work that a regional assessment and plan would provide.
3.4	The current Well-Being Plans (2018-2023) form the delivery arrangements for the next two years and these will continue to be delivered by the local partnerships (One Newport; The Blaenau Gwent We Want; The Caerphilly We Want; Our Monmouthshire; Torfaen Public Services Board) supported by the regional PSB, and scrutinised by partnership Scrutiny Committees in each of the local areas.
3.5	A timeline for this activity can be found at Appendix 1 to this report.
4	Progress
4.1	Each of the five PSBs Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouth, Newport, Torfaen have discussed the proposal and agreed to disband the local PSB and form a regional PSB.
4.2	<p>Officer groups across Gwent have been reviewing and developing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of reference • Progress towards a Gwent well-being assessment and plan, including engagement • Local Delivery Partnership arrangements • Membership of the Gwent PSB • Regional scrutiny arrangements • Performance • Links to other regional boards • Openness, transparency and identity of the Gwent PSB <p>The terms of reference and membership of the Local Delivery Partnerships have not yet been drafted but will also need to be agreed at the first meeting of the Gwent PSB to ensure continuity of delivery of the 5 existing well-being plans which run until 2023. Local Delivery Partnerships will need to include senior officers, with the ability to take decisions and direct resources, from all the Gwent PSB member bodies, and any local partners who are currently represented on the 5 PSBs but will not be at the Gwent PSB.</p> <p>The Local Delivery Partnership arrangements may differ in membership and scope but as a minimum will need to provide for the delivery of local priorities set out in the Gwent well-being plan and any local contribution to regional priorities.</p>
4.3	The current thinking is that, for the new Gwent Well-being Plan 2023-2028, there are likely to be a set of overarching well-being objectives which will be met by regional and local activity. There are likely to be local actions which will be particular to a locality and determined by more local data and assessment. The Local Delivery Partnerships will be tasked with contributing to the regional actions as well as delivering any specific local activity.

	In order to meet statutory deadlines for the next iteration of the well-being assessment and well-being plan the engagement work has commenced and there are regional subgroups in place to develop this work and support delivery of the Gwent Well-Being Assessment.
4.4	The Gwent PSB inaugural meeting is proposed for September 2021 and the members will set their terms of reference and membership at that meeting.
4.5	All statutory and invited G10 member organisations (Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Blaenau Gwent CBC, Caerphilly CC, Gwent Police, Monmouthshire CC, Natural Resources Wales, Newport CC, Office of the PCC, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Torfaen CBC) are taking reports as appropriate within their own governance and this report forms part of the decision making for this local authority.
4.6	The development of regional scrutiny arrangements for the Gwent PSB and its assessment and planning will continue over the coming months and will need to be collaborative in the approach to membership and interaction with the local Scrutiny Committees, particularly during the interim period ahead of the new Well-Being Plan.
5	Timeline
5.1	The initial meeting of the Gwent PSB is proposed as September 2021. Each organisation is responsible for reports to members and any necessary governance changes.
5.2	The regional well-being assessment will need to be complete and signed off by the statutory members individually, and by the PSB collectively, by the 5 th May 2022. The development of the well-being assessment also requires the input of the Future Generations Commissioner and Welsh Government. All groups are working to the assessment timeline attached at Appendix 2.
6	Terms of Reference
6.1	The draft Terms of Reference at Appendix 3 have been developed based on the 5 existing terms of reference, Schedule 3 to the Act, the reported discussions at the meetings to dissolve the existing PSBs and the discussions at G10.
6.2	The terms of reference must be agreed at the first meeting of the Gwent PSB. However, further development is needed to support the proposed <i>Local Delivery Partnerships</i> . This is an important concern raised by each local authority area.
6.3	The terms of reference can be agreed by the four statutory partners acting together, however given the 'collaboration' element of the sustainable development principle they will be agreed by the full set of members of the new board at its first meeting. It has been agreed in principle that all members of the regional PSB whether statutory or invited will have equal voting rights.
6.4	The terms of reference and membership of the Local Delivery Partnerships have not yet been drafted but will also need to be agreed at the first meeting of the Gwent PSB to ensure continuity of delivery of the 5 existing well-being plans

	<p>which run until 2023. Local Delivery Partnerships will need to include senior officers, with the ability to take decisions and direct resources, from all the Gwent PSB member bodies, and any local partners who are currently represented on the 5 PSBs but will not be at the Gwent PSB e.g., individual Registered Social Landlords, tertiary colleges, community councils, youth forums etc.</p> <p>The Local Delivery Partnership arrangements may differ in membership and scope but as a minimum will need to provide for the delivery of local priorities set out in the Gwent well-being plan and any local contribution to regional priorities.</p>
6.5	<p>The current thinking is that, for the new Gwent Well-being Plan 2023-2028, there are likely to be a set of overarching well-being objectives which will be met by regional and local activity. There are likely also to be local actions which will be particular to a locality and determined by more local data and assessment. The Local Delivery Partnerships will be tasked with contributing to the regional actions as well as delivering any specific local activity.</p>
6.6	<p>Administering PSBs is a responsibility that falls to the local authority members. To ensure that this is shared equally there is in principle agreement that this rotates around the five local authority members but on a two-year rotation to provide some continuity. The draft terms of reference suggest that the Chair holds the role for a period of two years. Where a local authority holds the position of chair the administration role should move with that chair.</p> <p>Although other organisations may Chair a PSB, a local authority must chair the first meeting of the PSB and every mandatory meeting (after a local government election) thereafter.</p>
7	Regional Scrutiny
7.1	<p>Officers are working with the Scrutiny Managers in each of the five local authorities to work through how the proposed Regional Scrutiny will function in terms of its membership, terms of reference, continued scrutiny of the 5 existing well-being plans until 2023, community safety scrutiny (Police and Justice Act 2006), scrutiny of local delivery under the new Gwent Well-being Plan 2023-2028, host authority etc.</p>
7.2	<p>Ongoing Scrutiny of the current Well-Being Plans continues within the local partnership Scrutiny arrangements.</p>
7.3	<p>The work to develop regional scrutiny is ongoing and will need to be taken through Council decision making processes so that the new regional scrutiny can be formed to begin its role of scrutinising the Gwent PSB.</p>
7.4	<p>The first formal activity the regional scrutiny will be involved in will be as a consultee to the new regional well-being assessment (Section 38 of the Act). Given the timeline at Appendix 1 this is likely to be in February 2022. Thereafter, the proposed Regional Scrutiny will take oversight of the Gwent Well-being Plan from 2023.</p>
7.5	<p>The discussions with Scrutiny Managers are considering:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of the regional scrutiny • The continued scrutiny of the current well-being plan • Ongoing scrutiny of local level PSB activity once the new PSB is formed
7.6	To strengthen the relationship with the Regional Scrutiny Committee the Chair and Vice-chair should be aware of the Boards work and should be sent all agendas, minutes, and papers. It is proposed that the Chair of the Regional Scrutiny would also be invited to all regional PSB meetings.
8	Links to other regional boards
8.1	<p>There are a multitude of partnership boards across the Gwent region that have been established in line with policy, programme or legislative drivers.</p> <p>This is outlined in a diagram at Appendix 4 which shows the Gwent PSB & RPB partnership landscape with statutory duties</p> <p>Connectedness and alignment of these boards could be improved and maximised under the Gwent PSB, particularly where boards are delivering activity in-line with the PSB statutory duties, as specified in the PSB statutory guidance.</p> <p>The Gwent PSB, working closely alongside the Gwent RPB, has the opportunity to reduce duplication, maximise resources, identify shared priorities and achieve closer alignment of policy, programme and legislative agendas, which would potentially improve outcomes for citizens across Gwent.</p> <p>Further work is required to map the various boards, key drivers and governance across Gwent.</p>
9	Performance and Reporting
9.1	A robust performance framework is essential in facilitating the PSB to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Gwent. A framework is being developed to provide an integrated mechanism that focusses on the performance of partnership and collaborative activity that delivers the statutory duties, objectives and priorities of the PSB.
9.2	The framework will facilitate the regional PSB to hold the performance of delivery of its priorities and responsibilities to account and be accountable for its own performance. This will be closely linked to the development of other parts of the PSB governance arrangements including scrutiny arrangements, terms of reference, other Regional Boards and Local Delivery Partnerships.
9.3	The performance framework will need to be driven by a range of qualitative and quantitative data, experiences, research and evidence to allow the PSB to evaluate progress and impact. The PSB will need to have the skills and capacity to support the provision of up-to-date information, analysis and insight on well-being of people and places in Gwent.

9.4	Each of the current PSBs has an online presence, with their own websites that host all meeting papers, performance reports, member profiles, the local assessment of well-being, data sets, the well-being plan, action plans, statutory annual reports, public contact points etc. It will be important that this is replicated for a Gwent PSB to ensure openness and transparency.
9.5	In addition, several PSBs have a social media presence through Twitter and Facebook. This includes social media guidance for partners in the use of the PSB identity and logos. The Gwent PSB will need to consider its own openness and transparency and potentially develop a Gwent identity, certainly this will be need for the next round of well-being planning. This will be an early consideration of the new PSB.
10	Conclusion
10.1	<p>Good progress is being made by officers of the PSB member organisations and development of the local assessment of well-being is on track to meet statutory timelines. Subject to reports passing through internal governance structures the Gwent PSB should be able to form from September this year. The provisional first meeting date is set.</p> <p>Each individual Council will need to consider changes to its constitution and committee terms of reference.</p> <p>Arrangements for Regional Scrutiny are being discussed among democratic services leads and the aim is to conclude this to meet the approval requirements of the local assessment of well-being needs. The scrutiny of the existing well-being plans is continuing through local Scrutiny in each individual area until 2023.</p>

**Gwent Area Public Services Board
Terms of Reference**

Prepared with reference to the Welsh Government Statutory guidance: SPSF 3 Collective Role (Public Services Boards) “Shared Purpose Shared Future” and Schedule 3 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Status

1. The Gwent Area Public Services Board (hereafter the Gwent Public Services Board, or, the Board) is a statutory board established by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
2. The former five local Public Services Boards, covering the geographical local authority areas of Blaenau Gwent CBC, Caerphilly CBC, Newport CC, Monmouthshire CC and Torfaen CBC, have agreed to merge under Section 47(1) of the Act to assist them in delivering the well-being goals for Wales.

Purpose

3. The purpose of the Board is to improve the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of the combined area, referred to as ‘Gwent’.
4. In pursuing this purpose, the Board will contribute to the national well-being goals and its Vision Statement.
 - A prosperous Wales
 - A resilient Wales
 - A healthier Wales
 - A more equal Wales
 - A Wales of cohesive communities
 - A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
 - A globally responsible Wales

VISION STATEMENT

The shared long-term vision of all partners for the Gwent area is for sustainable communities, supported by actions that enhance the quality of life for all. This means we need to make sure that when making decisions, we take into account the impact they could have on people living their lives in Wales in the future.

Main Tasks

5. The Board has four main tasks:
 - To prepare and publish an assessment of the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the Gwent area.

- To prepare and publish a Local Well-being Plan for the Gwent area setting out well-being objectives and the steps it proposes to take to meet them.
- To take all reasonable steps to meet the objectives they have set.
- To prepare and publish an annual report that sets out the Board's progress in meeting the well-being objectives.

Principles and Values

6. Sustainable development is the overriding principle of the Board's activities. This means acting in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
7. The Board will operate with mutual respect and challenge, in the spirit of collaborating to improve the well-being of the area. Members will seek to be at the forefront of planning, will be inquisitive of new approaches, and will act to bring their combined resources to bear to make any changes in partnership delivery that are needed to secure the well-being of future generations.
8. This means working in ways that take into account:
 - **Long term:** The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.
 - **Prevention:** Understanding the root causes of issues that affect well-being and acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse.
 - **Integration:** Considering how the Board's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.
 - **Collaboration:** Acting in collaboration with any other person that could help the Board to meet its well-being objectives.
 - **Involvement:** The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.
9. In addition, the Board, will strive to work in accordance with:
 - The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
 - The National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales
 - The National Standards for Children and Young People's Participation
 - Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2010
 - Equality Act 2010
 - Public Sector Equality Duty

Membership

Statutory Members

10. The statutory members of the Board are:
 - **Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council** (Leader and Chief Executive)

- **Caerphilly County Borough Council** (Leader and Chief Executive)
 - **Newport City Council** (Leader and Chief Executive)
 - **Monmouthshire County Council** (Leader and Chief Executive)
 - **Torfaen County Borough Council** (Leader and Chief Executive)
 - **Aneurin Bevan University Health Board** (Either the Chairman, Chief Executive or both)
 - **South Wales Fire and Rescue Service** (Either the Chairman, Chief Officer or both)
 - **Natural Resources Wales** (Chief Executive)
11. Individuals may be designated to represent any of the named persons above. Council Leaders may only designate another member of the Council's Cabinet to represent them.
12. Any designated representatives should have the authority to make decisions on behalf of their organisation.

Invited Participants

13. The following statutory invitees are invited to participate in the board's activity:
- The Chief Constable of Gwent Police
 - The Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner
 - National Probation Service for Wales
 - Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations
 - Torfaen Voluntary Association
 - The Welsh Ministers
14. The following non-statutory invitees, exercising functions of a public nature, are invited to participate in the board's activity:
- Public Health Wales NHS Trust
15. Invited participants are not required to accept their invitation.
16. Invited participants are not members of the Board. They are entitled to make representations to the board about the assessments of local well-being and local well-being plan, take part in Board meetings and provide other advice and assistance.
17. Invited participants will be asked to join the Board via a letter from the Chair setting out the reasons for the invitation and the expectations upon the invitee.
18. Having joined the Board, invited participants will participate in meetings in the same way as statutory members.

Observer

19. The Board will invite the Chair (as an alternate Vice-Chair) of the Regional Scrutiny Committee to attend Board meetings as an observer.

Other partners

20. The Board will work with key partners either directly, or through Local Delivery Partnerships, who exercise functions of a public nature and who; have a material interest in the well-being of the area; deliver important public services; and are involved in the in the preparation, implementation and delivery of the work of the board.
21. These partners will include, but are not limited to:
 - Community Health Councils
 - Community Councils
 - Registered Social Landlords
 - Tertiary Colleges
 - National Park Authorities
 - Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
 - Further or Higher Education institutions
 - Arts Council of Wales
 - Sports Council for Wales
 - National Library of Wales
 - National Museum of Wales

Quorum

22. The quorum of a public services board meeting is all its statutory members.

Decision Making

23. Members will appoint a Chair and Vice Chair from the statutory members or the invited participants, to hold office for two years.
24. Board decisions, for example the agreement of the assessment of local well-being and the local well-being plan, are only valid when made jointly and unanimously by all statutory members and with all statutory members in attendance.
25. Other Board decisions will be agreed by consensus but may be taken by vote carried by a simple majority.
26. In the event of a disagreement between members it is the responsibility of the Chair to mediate an agreement and to ensure that this is presented to the next available meeting of the Board or to a special meeting if required.

Mandatory Meetings

27. The Board will hold a “mandatory meeting” chaired by one of the constituent local authorities, no later than 60 days after each subsequent ordinary election of councillors.
28. At this meeting the Board will:
 - a) Nominate a Chair and Vice-chair
 - b) Determine when and how often it meets
 - c) Review and agree its terms of reference

Ordinary Meetings

29. Ordinary meetings of the Board will take place, as a minimum, every three calendar months at a time and venue to be agreed by the members. Members may attend virtually.
30. Each meeting may consider, but not be limited to, the following agenda items:
 - Welcome and apologies
 - Declarations of interest
 - Minutes of the last meeting
 - Progress on well-being objectives
 - Forward work plan
 - Public questions and communication

Minutes of meetings, and relevant reports, will be on the Gwent Public Services Board’s website.

Sub-groups

31. The Board is able to establish sub-groups to support it in undertaking its functions and the board can authorise sub-groups to exercise a limited number of functions.
32. Each sub-group of a public services board must include at least one statutory member of the board, who can choose an appropriate representative to attend to contribute to the work of the sub-group. The sub-group can include any invited participant or other partner.
33. Sub-groups’ functions will be guided by these PSB terms of reference.
34. Sub-groups cannot be authorised to:
 - (a) invite persons to participate in the board’s activity
 - (b) set, review or revise the board’s local objectives
 - (c) prepare or publish an assessment of well-being

- (d) consult on an assessment of well-being or to prepare a draft of an assessment for the purposes of consulting
- (e) prepare or publish a local well-being plan
- (f) consult on a local well-being plan or to prepare a draft of a local well-being plan for the purposes of consulting
- (g) review or amend a local well-being plan or to publish an amended local wellbeing plan
- (h) consult on an amendment to a local well-being plan
- (i) agree that the board merges or collaborates with another public services board

35. The matters above require all statutory members to act jointly and so must be taken by the Board itself.
36. Whilst sub-groups cannot themselves be authorised to finalise and approve the assessment of local well-being, or the local well-being plan, it is expected that they will play an important role in researching and developing those products in draft.
37. The aims of each sub-group will be determined by the Board when the sub-group is established.
38. Each sub-group will prepare terms of reference and the Chair of the sub-group will submit them to the Board for approval.
39. The following sub-group is currently established:

Gwent Strategic Well-being Action Group. The aim of this sub-group is:

- To act as the officer support group to the Board
 - To prepare the local assessment of well-being and Gwent Well-being Plan
 - To ensure that regional activity that contributes to the Board's well-being objectives is delivered in collaboration
 - To liaise with Welsh Government and the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner on behalf of the Board
 - Facilitate the relationship, continuity and reporting between regional activity and the work of the Local Delivery Partnerships
 - Provide evidence to the Regional Scrutiny Committee
 - To ensure that the work of the partnership is open and transparent and that it's activity and performance is available on the Gwent Public Services Board's website
 - To prepare an annual report on behalf of the Gwent Public Services Board
41. The following sub-groups will be established to operate in each geographical local authority area:

Local Delivery Partnerships. The aim of each of the five sub-groups is:

- To ensure the delivery of local actions that contribute to the Board's well-being objectives
 - To contribute to any regional activity that contributes to the Board's well-being objectives
 - To involve local communities, local community areas and any person or group with an interest in the well-being of the area covered by the partnership
 - To take forward any actions of a local nature set out in the Gwent Well-being Plan
 - To report as requested through local democratic scrutiny arrangements
 - To report as requested to the Regional Scrutiny Committee
 - To report on activity to the Gwent Public Services Board as required
 - To ensure that the work of the partnership is open and transparent and that its activity and performance is available on the Gwent Public Services Board's website
 - Continue to deliver 2018-23 Local Well-being Plans
42. Local Delivery Partnerships will comprise senior officer representatives of the statutory and invited partners of the Board who will have the ability to take decisions and direct resources within the area they operate.
43. The Gwent Public Services Board will ensure the continued effectiveness and operation of Local Delivery Partnerships and will hold themselves to mutual regional account should the performance of a Local Delivery Partnership fall below expectations.

Support

44. Administrative support for the Board will be provided by one of the five local authorities on a two-year cycle, timed with the two-year cycle of the Chair and Vice-Chair. Where the Chair is the Leader of one of the local authorities the administrative support will be provided by that local authority. This includes:
- Ensuring the Board is established and meets regularly
 - Preparing the agenda and commissioning papers for meetings
 - Inviting participants and managing attendance
 - Ensuring the Gwent Public Services Board website is current, open and transparent
 - Work on the annual report
 - Preparation of evidence for Regional Scrutiny
45. Ensuring that the functions of the Board are properly resourced is the responsibility of all members equally. Members may provide advice,

assistance, and other 'in kind' resources to the board for instance in the form of analytical or professional expertise.

46. Invited participants and other partners may also provide advice, assistance, and other 'in kind' resources to the Board for instance in the form of analytical or professional expertise.

Wider Engagement

47. The Board's citizen focus means it will engage in a purposeful relationship with the people and communities in the area, including children and young people, Welsh-speakers and those with protected characteristics (Equality Act 2010), in all aspects of its work. The Board will also take account of people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and will ensure those persons reflect the diversity of the population of the Gwent area. It will abide by the National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales and the National Standards for Children and Young People's Participation.
- The Board encourages dialogue with persons and bodies who have an interest in the well-being of the area and will consider any questions raised through the administrative support to the Board. Contact is facilitated by the Public Services Board website and meeting papers will be published on the website one week in advance.
 - Interested parties can be invited to make presentations to the Board on any items that are being considered. The Board will take care, however, to ensure the propriety and impartiality of processes and be alive to the risks of any perception arising that a particular group is being afforded excessive access to, or influence over the Board's deliberations.
 - The Board will take additional steps outside of meetings to ensure that the public voice is heard and helps to shape both the well-being assessment and well-being plan. This is expected to include consultation exercises and opportunities for people to raise and debate ideas through online and offline engagement arrangements.
 - The Board will seek advice and guidance from the Future Generations Commissioner as and when appropriate.
 - The Board is subject to scrutiny through the Regional Scrutiny Committee and this process provides a further route for public engagement. The Board will ensure the scrutiny committee has adequate engagement with a wide range of relevant stakeholders who can help hold PSBs to account.

Performance and Reporting

48. The Board will adopt a robust performance management framework and will ensure that it is measuring outcomes and progress towards its well-being objectives. The performance will be examined at each meeting and progress will be publicly available on the Gwent PSB website.

49. The Board will prepare and publish a report no later than 14 months after the publication of its first local well-being plan. This will enable the board to report on the full year's activity.
50. Subsequently, an annual report will be published no later than one year after the publication of each previous report.
51. In the year following an ordinary local government election, when a new local well-being plan is being prepared and published, there is no requirement to also produce an annual report.
52. The Annual Report will set out the steps taken since the publication of the Board's most recent local well-being plan to meet the objectives set out in the plan. It can also include any other information the Board thinks would be appropriate.
53. A copy of the Annual Report will be sent to the Welsh Ministers, the Future Generations Commissioner, the Auditor General for Wales and to the Regional Scrutiny Committee

Regional Scrutiny

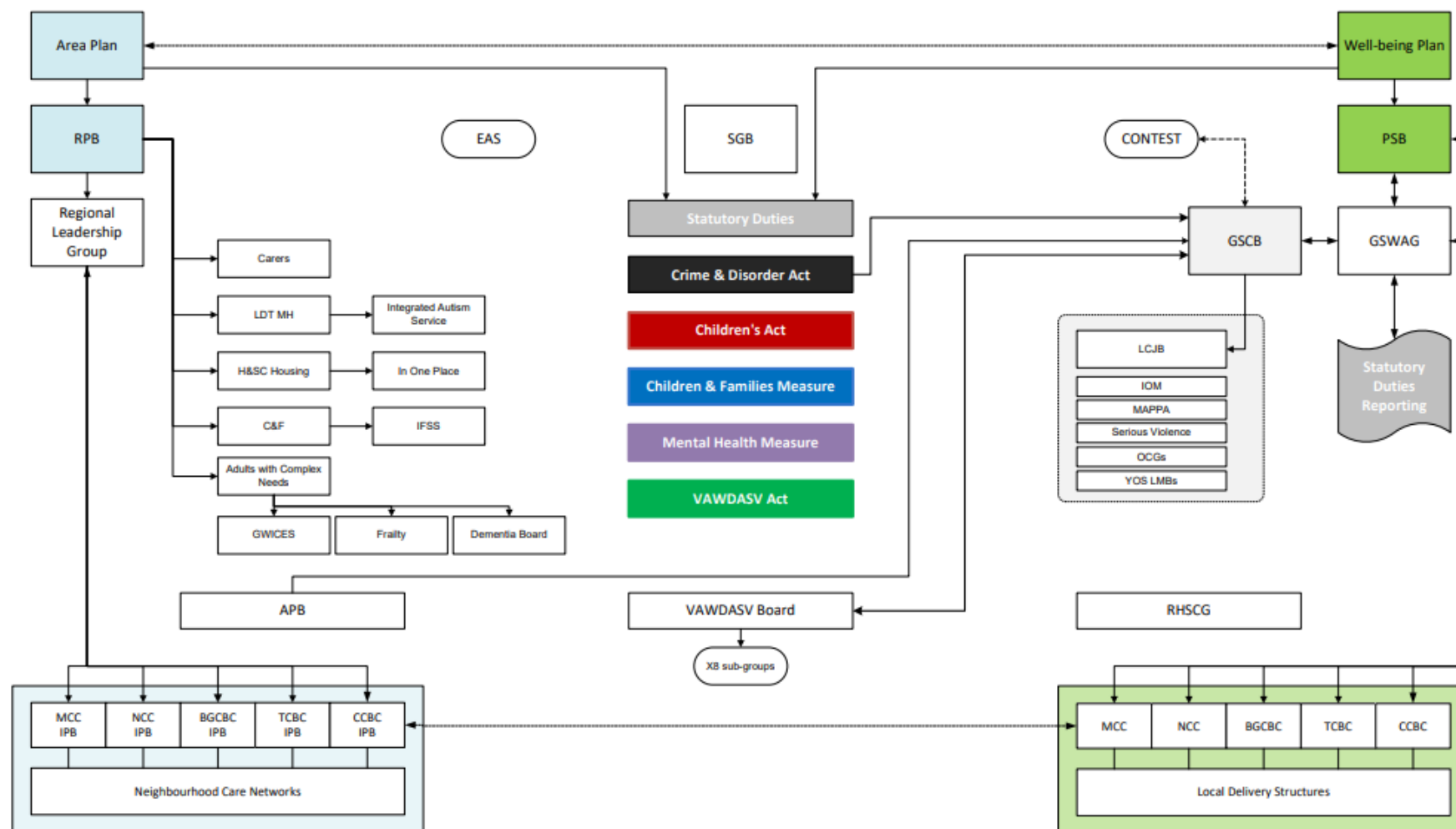
54. The role of scrutiny is to provide challenge and support to secure continuous improvement for the Board.
55. In order to assure democratic accountability, there is a requirement for a designated local government scrutiny committee to scrutinise the work of the Public Services Board. The scrutiny will be provided by a Regional Scrutiny Committee to be supported by the same local authority currently providing.
56. Welsh Ministers have a power to refer a plan to the scrutiny committee if it is not considered sufficient; for example, due to an adverse report by the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales or a concern statutory duties are not being met.
57. The Regional Scrutiny Committee can require any member of the board to give evidence, but only in respect of the exercise of joint functions conferred on them as a member of the Board.
58. The Regional Scrutiny Committee must send a copy of any report or recommendation it makes to the Welsh Ministers, the Commissioner and the Auditor General for Wales.

Review and Amendment

59. While the Board must review these terms of reference at the mandatory meeting, the Board may review, and agree to amend it at any time providing all statutory members agree.

Agreed: XX September 2021

Gwent PSB & Regional Partnership Board partnership landscape with statutory duties



Background papers

Wellbeing Assessments for Gwent

- [Newport](#)
- [Caerphilly](#)
- [Blaenau Gwent](#)
- [Torfaen](#)
- [Monmouthshire](#)

Wellbeing Plans for Gwent

- [Newport's Well-being Plan 2018-23](#)
- [The Caerphilly We Want 2018 – 2023](#)
- [The Blaenau Gwent We Want 2018-2023](#)
- [Well-being Plan for Torfaen 2018 - 2023](#)
- [Monmouthshire Public Service Board Well-being Plan 2018-23](#)

PSB websites

- [The Blaenau Gwent We Want](#)
- [The Caerphilly We Want](#)
- [Our Monmouthshire](#)
- [One Newport](#)
- [Torfaen Public Services Board](#)

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Equality and Future Generations Evaluation

Name of the Officer completing the evaluation Richard Jones Phone no: 01633 740733 E-mail: richardjones@monmouthshire.gov.uk	Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal To provide details of the arrangements developed to merge the Monmouthshire Public Services Board (PSB) to form a Gwent-wide regional Public Services Board.
Name of Service area All services	Date: 24/06/2021

1. **Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics?** Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	The development of a regional PSB is aimed at strengthening public services partnership working to improve well-being of all residents in the area.	None identified	The development of the PSB well-being assessment and subsequent development of the well-being plan will consider well-being for protected characteristics.
Disability	As above	As above	As above
Gender reassignment	As above	As above	As above
Marriage or civil partnership	As above	As above	As above

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Pregnancy or maternity	As above	As above	As above
Race	As above	As above	As above
Religion or Belief	As above	As above	As above
Sex	As above	As above	As above
Sexual Orientation	As above	As above	As above

2. The Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice

The Socio-economic Duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage when taking key decisions. This duty aligns with our commitment as an authority to Social Justice.

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage.	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice	The development of a regional PSB is aimed at strengthening public services partnership working to improve well-being of all residents in the area.	None identified.	<p>The development of the PSB well-being assessment will assess social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being in the area of Gwent and local areas. The subsequent development of the well-being plan will consider the evidence of socio-economic well-being from the assessment.</p> <p>As part of Monmouthshire Council's continued commitment to Social Justice, the third iteration of the Social Justice Strategy was approved by Cabinet in March 2021. Working in partnership through the PSB is integral to delivering the commitments in the strategy.</p>

3. Policy making and the Welsh language.


How does your proposal impact on the following aspects of the Council's Welsh Language Standards:	Describe the positive impacts of this proposal	Describe the negative impacts of this proposal	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts
Policy Making Effects on the use of the Welsh language, Promoting Welsh language Treating the Welsh language no less favourably	The development of a regional PSB is aimed at strengthening public services partnership working to improve well-being in the area.	None identified	The development of the PSB well-being assessment and subsequent development of the well-being plan will consider well-being related to the Welsh Language.
Operational Recruitment & Training of workforce	The Public Service Board will operate in line with Welsh Language requirements	None identified	The development of the PSB well-being assessment and subsequent development of the well-being plan will consider well-being related to the Welsh Language.
Service delivery Use of Welsh language in service delivery Promoting use of the language	The Public Service Board will operate in line with Welsh Language requirements	None identified.	The development of the PSB well-being assessment and subsequent development of the well-being plan will consider well-being related to the Welsh Language.




4. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!


Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs	The development of a regional PSB is aimed at strengthening partnership working to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the area by contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals.	The regional public services boards contribution to the achievement of the goals will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ assessing the state of the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in the area; ➤ setting local objectives that are designed to maximise the contribution to achieve the goals; ➤ the taking of all reasonable steps to meet those objectives
A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	As above	As above
A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	As above	As above
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	As above	As above
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	As above	As above
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People	As above	As above

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation		
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	As above	As above

5. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	<p>The development of a regional PSB is aimed at strengthening partnership working to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the area now and in the future.</p> <p>This PSB will act in accordance with the sustainable development principle in the way it operates.</p>	<p>The development of the PSB well-being assessment and well-being plan will embed the Long –term principle taking account of the importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>The development of a regional PSB is aimed at strengthening partnership working to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the area through collaborative working.</p> <p>This PSB will act in accordance with the sustainable development principle in the way it operates</p>	<p>The development of the PSB well-being assessment and well-being plan will embed the collaboration principle acting in collaboration with any other person that could help the Board to meet its well-being objectives.</p>
 <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>The development of a regional PSB is aimed at strengthening partnership working to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the area and will involve those with an interest.</p> <p>This PSB will act in accordance with the sustainable development principle in the way it operates.</p>	<p>The development of the PSB well-being assessment and well-being plan will embed the involvement principle involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area.</p>
 <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>The development of a regional PSB is aimed at strengthening partnership working to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the area with a focus on prevention.</p> <p>This PSB will act in accordance with the sustainable development principle in the way it operates.</p>	<p>The development of the PSB well-being assessment and well-being plan will embed the prevention principle understanding the root causes of issues that affect well-being and acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse.</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p>The development of a regional PSB is aimed at strengthening partnership working to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the area through integrating its activity.</p> <p>This PSB will act in accordance with the sustainable development principle in the way it operates</p>	<p>The development of the PSB well-being assessment and well-being plan will embed the integration principle considering how the Board's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.</p>

6. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding	The development of a regional PSB is aimed at strengthening public services partnership working to improve well-being of all residents in the area.	None identified	Opportunities for a merged PSB include ensuring a more strategic and consistent overview of the legislative responsibilities that sit with PSBs such as the Crime and Disorder Act, Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) and the Childrens Act.
Corporate Parenting	The development of a regional PSB is aimed at strengthening public services partnership working to improve well-being of all residents in the area.	None identified	Opportunities for a merged PSB include ensuring a more strategic and consistent overview of the legislative responsibilities that sit with PSBs such as the Crime and Disorder Act, Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) and the Childrens Act.

7. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

The development of a regional approach to a PSB provides the catalyst for a regional well-being assessment. The assessment will build on existing individual area Well-being assessments and will be structured around the four areas of well-being – social, economic, environmental and cultural. The assessment will use a wide range of qualitative and quantitative information including data, academic research, evidence and people's views (engagement) to help understand well-being in the area.

8. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

This is an evaluation of the arrangements developed to merge the Monmouthshire Public Services Board (PSB) to form a Gwent-wide regional Public Services Board rather than a more specific evaluation of actions the Board may subsequently develop. The development of a regional PSB is aimed at strengthening partnership working to improve well-being in the area. The development of activity under the PSB, including the well-being assessment and well-being plan will consider the areas assessed further.

9. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible

10. VERSION CONTROL: The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stage, such as informally within your service, and then further developed throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process to demonstrate how you have considered and built in equality and future generations considerations wherever possible.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1.	Public Services Select Committee	5 July 2021	

SUBJECT: Public Service Board Well-being Plan Annual Report

MEETING: Public Services Select Committee

DATE: 5th July 2021

DIVISIONS/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide the Select Committee with the Public Service Board's Annual Report for scrutiny of their performance in 2020/21 in delivering the objectives of the well-being plan.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The intention of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act is to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, by taking action in accordance with the sustainable development principle aimed at achieving seven national well-being goals.
- 2.2 The Act places a duty on the Public Service Board (PSB) to prepare and publish a Well-being Plan and well-being objectives for the county and prepare and publish an annual progress report each year.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The committee is invited to use the annual report to hold PSB partners to account for the delivery of collaborative approaches to improve well-being in Monmouthshire.
- 3.2 The committee is invited to examine the annual report to ensure it presents a clear and robust overview of progress towards objectives set in the PSB's well-being plan.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 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. As part of this duty each Public Service Board must prepare and publish a local well-being plan setting out its local objectives and the steps it proposes to take to meet them.
- 4.2 Monmouthshire's Well-being Plan was approved by the PSB in April 2018 and published at the beginning of May that year. The statutory guidance underpinning the Act requires the Board to prepare and publish an annual report that describes the steps taken to meet the objectives and can also include any other information which the Board feels appropriate.
- 4.3 This is the third annual report, reporting on progress of the PSB towards delivering the objectives set out in the Wellbeing Plan between April 2020 and March 2021. Following scrutiny by the Committee the report will be presented to the Public Service Board for approval and then be published on the PSB's webpages.
- 4.4 During the Coronavirus pandemic public services in Monmouthshire have been at the forefront of efforts to preserve life and stop the spread of the virus, while continuing to provide vital support to communities in Monmouthshire. This report provides an update on the activity delivered by the PSB during 2020/21 on the steps in its well-being plan, this includes activity partners have delivered to address the challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic to support residents in Monmouthshire through these unprecedented times. The report includes issues that the

committee have scrutinised over the past year. The report also contains data for the national well-being indicators prescribed by Welsh Government.

- 4.5 With a substantial focus of PSB partners on the pandemic there has been a lessened focus in progressing some areas of the PSB's well-being objectives. The report sets out how partners have evolved and adjusted delivery under the objectives, including responding to the pandemic. There has also been a short delay in producing the annual report beyond the original deadline, however significant effort has been by PSB partners to ensure any delay is limited.
- 4.6 Public services in Monmouthshire continue to work in partnership to deliver and coordinate activity related to the pandemic. There is a need to ensure that the PSB continues to focus the delivery of its well-being plan on the issues that matter most to well-being in Monmouthshire. Utilising the latest evidence and thinking from partners, a review of priority steps, which are areas for particular focus, has been undertaken. The PSB has agreed some areas partners would particularly prioritise collaborative work over the remaining two years of the existing well-being plan, these are: Climate and decarbonisation, mental health, the economy and in particular the extent to which the pandemic may have exacerbated inequality. The PSB will continue to work with local and regional partners to develop its delivery. Any further updates to the well-being plan, will be reported to the committee accordingly.

5. REASONS:

- 5.1 To improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of our county and work towards the aspirations outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations Act and meet the associated legislative requirements set out in the underpinning statutory guidance.
- 5.2 To ensure democratic accountability of the Public Service Board through the appropriate overview and scrutiny provided by the Select Committee.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no resource implications attached to this report

7. EQUALITY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

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

8. AUTHORS:

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Monmouthshire Select Committee Minutes

Meeting of Public Services Select Committee held at Remote Meeting on Thursday, 19th November, 2020 at 2.00 pm

Councillors Present

County Councillor T.Thomas, (Chairman)

County Councillors: D. Batrouni, S. Howarth, R.Roden, J.Treharne, P.A. Fox, A. Webb substituting for L. Dymock

Also in attendance County Councillors: M. Powell, M.Groucutt, R. Harris, R. Edwards, B. Strong, A.Davies, D. Evans, L.Brown, S. Woodhouse, P. Jordan, P. Murphy, R.J.W. Greenland and J.Pratt

Officers in Attendance

Frances O'Brien, Chief Officer, Enterprise
Matthew Gatehouse, Head of Policy and Governance
Sharran Lloyd, LSB Development Manager
Judith Langdon, Communities and Partnership Development Lead
Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager
Robert McGowan, Scrutiny Officer

APOLOGIES: County Councillors L.Dymock, M. Lane, P. Jones, A. Easson and P.Pavia

1. To elect a Chair.

Councillor Tudor Thomas was nominated by Councillor Batrouni and seconded by Councillor Treharne.

2. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public Open Forum.

No members of the public were present.

4. Regional Working: Corporate Joint Committee Consultation.

Chief Executive Paul Matthews gave a short introduction. Frances O'Brien and Matthew Gatehouse presented the report, and delivered a presentation. Matthew Gatehouse and Paul Matthews answered the councillors' questions.

Challenge:

CJCs can determine their own budgets, voting procedure, scrutiny process; they can tell councils what they want for their own functions; they are legally indemnified – so councils would have to pick up the tab if someone sued them; they can ask for extra powers; they have already determined their membership, future membership and that of the subcommittees. Are these statements correct?

Yes. There is a huge amount of flexibility and powers vested within the CJC itself. This CJC is established with 10 representatives who are locally elected – so it is made up of the 10 local

authority leaders. In terms of those decisions, they have to be made by the CJC. This is one of the reasons for the higher quorum, ensuring that decisions can't be made based on a small number of attendees. For example, the matter of finances: we have had the Cardiff Capital Region for 4 years, in which we have put money to operate – this is similar to how the CJC will operate. The council will make funding available to meet the CJC's needs; it will then make decisions within that budgetary framework. Yes, the CJC appoints its own committees. It has to set up a scrutiny committee. It doesn't take away the fact that the leader, as representative, would be accountable back to council, and that the CJC can be scrutinised by the individual local authorities.

Realistically, who is going to raise concerns against their own leader – of any political group – if that leader can use their own political powers to ensure they don't ask awkward questions? The structure seems to cut off the opposition from any of the councils.

These bodies do carry many delegated powers that are passed to them because of these regulations and what will follow. In terms of the powers that are vested in the CJC to carry out these functions, it is accurate to say that yes, they carry a lot of powers, and the leaders are not required to come back to their councils on individual decisions. They are operating under delegated powers.

In terms of being held to account, do the leaders have to do an annual report to their councils or anything like that?

Yes, they will have to do an annual report. They are bound by the same responsibility as in principal councils i.e. this council receives a report every October on the objectives. The CJC will be subject to the same provisions in terms of arrangements for performance and finance as other councils.

These concerns are good responses to this consultation. The leader of a council takes with them to the CJC the powers that the council's constitution chooses to give to them. There is therefore a conversation to be had at council level about what the constitution affords. It has yet to be determined what the scrutiny will consist of. As an example, we chose with the Educational Achievement Service that we wouldn't go for a greater Gwent scrutiny committee; the sovereign councils decided that they would scrutinise that function themselves – we continue to do this through our CYP committee. We have the opportunity in the council's consultation response to highlight these concerns and stress the areas that we think are very important – the concentration of power is likely to be one of the most prominent.

It seems that this is going to go forward anyway, and all we can do is respond to it. Can the process be clarified as to how we have arrived at this point?

The Local Government and Elections Bill was approved by the Senedd yesterday. As a piece of legislation, it is on its way for Royal assent (likely to be granted in the New Year.) CJC's are just one chapter in the bill. You are being asked to comment or contribute to the regulations, rather than the legislation, that will underpin how CJC's work. Wales Government has committed that those regulations will be coproduced with local government – that is the conversation that you and the council are being invited to. Those regulations will be laid early in the New Year. So, yes, you are not impacting the legislation. But the council has provided 2 consultation responses to the legislation – during this, we as a council were agreed in not being keen on CJC's, for the reasons we are hearing today. As a council, we have offered our views. Wales

Government has considered them, and decided that CJs are going forward, but are ceding some ground to us to decide how they will work.

Regarding constitutional power, does that mean that if we would like our representative to do things in a different way, would we re-write something in our own constitution? Does the CJC not have its own constitution?

These draft regulations will set out the fact that CJs can evolve differently in different areas (e.g. north and mid Wales.) Thinking about our starting point, with the Cardiff Capital Region in place, it will be very different from the growth deal that is in place in north Wales. Within the consultation, those sorts of flexibilities can be commented on. So there is quite a bit that is still to be decided and to be negotiated between individual councils and the CJC.

Does having a Regional Transport plan mean that SWTRA will no longer exist?

The CJC will take on the strategic transport function. That doesn't mean that it will end up dealing with every operational detail. The powers within these draft regulations give us the ability to run things concurrently. We might decide that there are certain functions that we will continue to operate locally. These are conversations yet to be had. SWTRA itself is almost certainly going to be untouched for a few years. At the point when the council first responded to the consultation on the bill, the draft legislation was written in such a way that the minister would be able to establish CJs for whatever he/she wanted, whenever he/she wanted. Only councils themselves can decide what areas are added. As a reminder: CJs are charged with overseeing the development of a strategic development plan for SE Wales – they are not charged with taking forward the development of Monmouthshire's local development plan. They will not therefore enter the territory of what the planning committee covers on a daily and weekly basis, but they will take forward a more strategic perspective on SE Wales. Through the Cardiff Capital Region, we already have a Regional Transport Authority, on which Councillor Pratt represents us. The CJC has 3 foci, from which they can't drift.

How will the CJC be funded? What are the views regarding the distribution of the shared prosperity fund? How do you think the public will respond to the funding aspects?

Discussions about the distribution of EU funds are in their infancy. They are not part of the CJC regulations. But it's likely that it will play a strong part in how those EU prosperity funds are managed. One could foresee a situation where CJs give much more leverage to the local government family because the City and Growth deals are very much a creature of Westminster, rather than Welsh Government. It's not always about hierarchy, but about interplay between the agencies. As with other regional arrangements, the CJC will come to this council with its budget requirements. That has to be funded by this council, in the same way we currently fund the City Deal and the Educational Achievement Service. These actually try to leverage in greater funding to our area – by operating at scale, these things should give us greater economic clout and enable us to procure more funding and investment into the region.

How will this extra tier of government be presented to the public during the current financial and health issues, and how do you think they will respond?

In terms of messaging and the public reception, CJs are being legislated and created by Welsh Government. As a council, we have expressed concerns about them in our consultations. They are a policy of Welsh Government.

The Capital City Deal has entirely neglected Monmouth in improving/installing a public transport service. What guarantees are there that the CJC will correct this? As we will fund this, will we receive extra funds from Welsh Government to help?

At this time, I don't think we can give assurances that the CJC will result in funds or priorities changing in any local area. It would probably aspire to create a link from local accountability through to council and regional, to be able to capitalise on some of those opportunities and visions that exist on the national and international stage. Ideally, by acting at scale it's able to leverage in more funding to operate at greater economies of scale – this is generally the theory when moving to regionalisation on certain things, transport potentially being one of them.

Central government will place £400m with Welsh Government. Will that money be properly distributed to the 4 bodies in Wales?

CJCs weren't designed as part of Welsh Government's legislation to be vehicles for shared prosperity funding. What Welsh Government wants to see is that the successor funding streams now that we're out of Europe come directly from UK government to Wales government, so the latter can largely determine how they are spent. It's probable that the City Deal will morph into this one, so that we will continue to have one entity, covering the same ground. We put in around £100k per year to part-fund the Cardiff Capital Region City deal, so we're already making a significant financial contribution to regional working. Wales Government and UK Government have very different ambitions for how successor funding streams are going to be managed. I foresee more UK money flowing through the CJCs than Wales Government might wish. If that were to happen, we would want to exert some influence as to how it was spent. Though this council rejected the idea of CJCs in the consultation, as they are happening anyway now it would be best for us to be involved and try to influence it.

In addition to concerns about accountability and democracy, scrutiny is a concern as it has left a lot to be desired in the City Deal process.

These are good points, which can be incorporated into the response. We are aware of the City Deal scrutiny concerns – these have been fed in and can be used to inform scrutiny of the CJC once it is set up. Also, although the CJC will have delegated powers, the Leader can still be held to account for the decisions through any scrutiny arrangements through this council. If we think about the changes we made to this committee last year, it was to broaden its remit from the Public Service Board select committee to Public Services, to look at all the different collaborative arrangements that this council is engaged in.

It seems there is a disparity in democratic accountability: a lot of the bill is about making local councils more accountable in terms of petitions etc., then there are CJCs being set up which are at the opposite end of the scale. There are also aspects of the bill that favour public consultation, then things like this that don't.

Yes, the CJCs are one small part of the Local Government and Elections bill. We are focussing on the 'establishment' regulations for CJCs. There will be a second set of regulations around general application. The Local Government and Elections bill has huge provisions in terms of opening up, and making democracy more accessible and accountable. Probably the biggest single thing in that bill is enfranchising 16 and 17 year olds. The requirement to have petitions schemes being another one. I can understand that it then feels like power is being put into the hands of a smaller number of representatives within CJCs. This council has commented on that previously. The WLGA, our representative body, while saying it is broadly supportive and willing

to work with councils on CJsCs, opposes the way that it has come about through mandation. If we think of CJsCs as another vehicle through which councils can collaborate and pool budgets, then many will argue that there are advantages to that.

Why can't funding come centrally, from either Welsh or UK government? There is concern about the council contributing to the fund but then having very little say over it.

Why they haven't been funded is something else that can be incorporated into the response. Ultimately, that is a matter for Welsh Government but if they were to fund it from Welsh Government budgets that would result in less Welsh Government budget elsewhere and probably that would mean less going into local authorities. If it weren't for the CJC determining its own budget then Welsh Government would 'top slice' it.

Regarding the strategic development plan, will the LDP's local consultation be overridden by a very small number of people making decisions at a regional level? What contribution will this council make to this body as well as to the Cardiff City Region deal?

Again, we imagine that the City Deal will morph into the CJC. It already has a Chief Executive and a number of staff, so the transition of that into a CJC will be a lesser commitment than setting these CJsCs up from scratch.

To what extent could Monmouthshire exercise its own independent functions? For example, could we still have our own economic development function, as we currently have in the Enterprise directorate, or would the entire function be transferred to a regional arrangement?

Yes, within the regulations, we could retain parts of that function. So, the CJC will assume responsibility for the strategic economic development and local growth function but if MCC wanted to retain some functions locally, the regulations would permit for that to be developed between the CJC and MCC. There could be concurrent operations, with part of that function being delivered within the local authority and the strategic responsibility sitting with the CJC. There is quite a bit of room and discretion within these regulations for negotiation between the CJC and the local authority. Welsh Government is mandating the principle and framework, but with some of those individual functions there is a lot still to be determined.

Chair's Summary:

The CJC will cover strategic development planning but we will still have our local development plan. Regional transport: this is welcomed. The only functions that will move into this are those that will benefit from sitting in a regional arrangement. It was explained that the purpose of today was not to discuss whether we would have CJsCs, but to submit our consultation response, and for the Select committee to shape it. Some of the key points considered were around this being seen as a creature of local government, subject to the same powers and duties, and that the CJsCs could evolve differently in different areas. Also, that it will be run by the 10 leaders with delegated powers – they don't need to get permissions from councils, but would be subject to scrutiny. We spoke of creating subcommittees and additional co-opted members. We said that the budget for the CJC would be met by constituent councils. Timescale: it receives royal assent next year and has to hold a first meeting by September next year. We also spoke about resources and statutory roles. We were reassured that we are already ahead of the game in terms of staffing because our Cardiff Capital Region director Kelly will become the leader of the CJC.

Questions from the committee: Councillor Batrouni focussed on democratic concerns around the power of leaders, and accountability. We also heard concerns about the CJC determining its

own budget, governance arrangements, and scrutiny, and that this would be paid for by local authorities. Councillor Howarth asked for clarity on how we got to this position and timescales going forward. Clarity was given that the legislation passed; our contribution today is towards the regulations that underpin it. Councillor Powell asked about transfer of responsibilities, who is responsible in the interim, and the erosion of local authority powers. Councillor Roden sought clarification around shared prosperity funding and the distribution of funding: it is unclear at the moment but it could offer greater flexibility to CJs around how monies are spent. Councillor Treharne voiced concerns about the impact of City Deal so far, and the extent to which CJC might have a greater impact, extending their reach through collaborative delivery. He spoke of some areas being left behind. Councillor Howarth raised a point about CJs delivering structural monies: it was reiterated that CJs weren't designed to be the deliverers of monies, and that Welsh Government and Central Government perhaps have different ideas about how they will be spent. We fed into the initial consultation and we didn't see the value of CJs but they are happening anyway: the role now is to see how best we can influence this. Councillor Batrouni also raised concerns about democratic mandate.

Questions from other members: Councillor Davies raised concerns about scrutiny and accountability, as did Councillor Brown. She also wanted clarity about the interfaces between CJs and other bodies. The Leader spoke to reassure us that the 10 leaders were largely opposed to CJs initially, as we were already operating in this way, but that that this could be an alternative to reorganisation. He explained that what we most opposed was the imposition of CJs, taking power from the people through mandation. He explained that there had been very little communication from Welsh Government to local authorities, and the tone of how we should operate is what hadn't been so welcome. But, the minister sees our region as a good example of how we can operate effectively and now it is a case of how best to influence them. The Leader noted that it would be interesting to see if the CJC has additional powers over the Cardiff Capital Region on such things as the metro, and explained the position around the metro at the moment, that funding is allocated directly for those projects. He also confirmed that the Cardiff Capital Region board will morph into the CJC with very little disruption, and reassured members that this council has been committed to regional working for many years. Councillor Pratt explained that she was initially sceptical but that there are lots of positives for us, in terms of funding and regional working, and that this could be a good opportunity to seek funding for projects and obtain quicker decision-making, particularly around transport and infrastructure. He noted that MCC currently contributes 6% of total local government funding of the City deal, compared to Cardiff's 23%, but there is still one vote, one council – so Monmouthshire does quite well in these areas. He suggested that CJs would likely be the recipients of the Shared Prosperity Fund, which is essentially replacement EU funding. Councillor Harris said that the Leader's comments had reassured him, and that this is not likely to radically change existing working arrangements. He had some concerns about democratic mandate but let's try to embrace this positively. Councillor Jordan asked about the extent to which we could retain some of our functions, and he was reassured that there is some flexibility for that within the arrangements.

5. Tackling Poverty through Partnerships.

Judith Langdon presented the report, delivered a presentation and answered the councillors' questions, with additional comments from Matthew Gatehouse and Sharran Lloyd.

Challenge:

Are the Poverty Action Group and the Poverty Steering Group different?

This was a typo: it is the Tackling Poverty Steering Group.

Inequality is a huge piece of work in its own right. Should we not pin it down, for practical reasons?

Primarily, we are talking about income inequality. In terms of near future actions, we are looking to set up an action-focussed working group around that theme specifically. We don't want to pre-judge what that wider group comes out with. Today was about discussing working in partnership, and I want to tap into that wider partnership view.

The PSB is meant to tackle poverty – why should we ask them to do something they should already be doing?

The appropriate level of member involvement in the Poverty Network Group was debated for the first meeting. The decision taken at that point was to go with the Social Justice Advisory Group members. It is a very fluid group, evolving and dynamic, open to anyone with a passionate interest in that topic. I don't wish to give the impression that the PSB's members are not doing anything to address poverty. A parallel with our own organisation might be helpful: if we were to go back two years, there is a huge amount of activity within our own organisation, the effect of which is to reduce poverty, address its causes and effects, but which is not necessarily being drawn under that banner. The same is perhaps true, to some extent, of the PSB, in that there is no shortage of activity but with this piece we are hoping to put some flesh on the bones of that aspiration. Hopefully, by providing a greater degree of coordination across those groups, it can become more than a sum of its parts.

Can we, as a Select Committee, ask the Partners to feed back to us every 6 or 12 months on the progress they've made towards tackling poverty, what steps they've been taking, etc.?

Typically, when a topic is the subject of partnership activity, it is in the spirit of partnership working to report on that as a partnership. Within that, yes, there would be specific actions that could be attributed to individual partners to see the contribution they have made towards that. We would be very happy to continue to report on that. This committee – in its previous form as the PSB Committee – has brought in partners from Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Natural Resources Wales, etc., to be held accountable for their contributions to PSB commitments, and that would be true for this Public Services Committee as well. We are also looking at this through the lens of where other regional structures play a role in this, that are not necessarily coordinated by MCC, and the impacts of how that work at a regional level plays out in our localities. That work will become more crucial as we move forward.

The pandemic will mean many people are now in poverty, who weren't before. Has this been seen yet, or is it still yet to happen?

There is a sense among the partners that it is starting to come through now, in terms of increased universal credit claims and Citizens Advice handling an increased number of employment-related issues. So it is starting to come through but not yet in the form of a tidal wave that we have feared. But that's not to say it won't come. So far, one of the more reassuring things has been that for the most part, the systems that are in place to pick people up are working. For instance, there has been recent data about food bank use: it has shown an

increase in Monmouthshire, but not a huge one. The general feeling is that people are finding their way to the services to support them (this is largely anecdotal, as there is always a lag between anecdotes and data.) That will continue to be a key focus: that many people will be facing these challenges for the first time, and we need to get them to the right support at the earliest possible opportunity. For example, a piece of work through the Steering Group has been to create a new resource on our website that aggregates into a single place all the different sources of support that someone might need.

Chair's Summary:

The point about defining inequality and poverty is an important one. We heard the question about having feedback from the partner organisations – we welcome that. There is bound to have been an increase during this time: there have certainly been those who have lost their jobs and not been able to furlough. We have a huge responsibility now to take this forward, and do meaningful work.

6. To confirm the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th July 2020.

The minutes were confirmed and signed as an accurate record (Councillor Roden abstained as he was not present.)

7. Date and time of next meeting: To be confirmed.

The meeting ended at **4.28 pm**

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 202-22

Public Services Select Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
5 th July 2021	Well-being Plan Annual Report	Pre-decision scrutiny of the annual report of the Public Service Board.	Richard Jones Sharran Lloyd	Pre-decision Scrutiny and Performance Monitoring
	Transition to Regional PSB	i), ii), authors for both are Rich and Sharran so can you check with them on readiness of papers.	Matthew Gatehouse Sharran Lloyd	Pre-decision Scrutiny and Performance Monitoring

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Future Agreed Work Programme Items: Dates to be determined

- **Ongoing Transformation between health board and regional partnership boards.** Scrutiny of integrated care fund transformation funding and impact, risks associated with funding stream
- **Shared Resource Service**
- Scrutiny of partners that receive a precept ~ Police & PCC
- **Area Planning Board** ~ the utilisation of drug and alcohol monies
- **Children and Families Board** ~ the work they do and the impact on the board abilities to discharge its functions

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