

SUBJECT: Update on Regional Well-being Work

MEETING: PSB Select Committee

DATE: 10th October 2018

DIVISIONS/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1 PURPOSE

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

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

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

3 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Officers representing the five Public Service Boards in Gwent have been meeting in the Gwent Wide Strategic Well-being Assessment Group (GSWAG) to share learning and identify opportunities to collaborate on areas of common interest. This work initially focused on the development of the well-being assessment and has continued to strengthen the development and implementation of well-being plans.

- 3.2 In 2017/18 Welsh Government made available £74,026 of funding for the five PSBs in the Gwent area to build on work completed as part of the well-being assessments and help build towards the development of the well-being plan. The Welsh Government has made available a further £74,026 of funding for the five PSBs in the Gwent area for 2018/19. Officers on the Gwent wide group are currently developing projects to utilise this funding for 2018/19. Newport are acting as the lead organisation in the process this year. A brief update on the progress with projects as part of this regional work is provided below.

Future Trends:

- 3.3 In 2017/18 PSBs in Gwent, through the Gwent Strategic Well-being Assessment group, commissioned specific work to develop an understanding of Future trends that could impact on well-being and delivery of public services in Gwent to inform the development of well-being plans.

- 3.4 The work has now been completed and the outputs of the work have been provided to Gwent PSBs in two main parts:

- Horizon Scans: These identify strategically important trends, potential disruptors and drivers of change and provide valuable evidence for these issues. The Horizon Scans cover ten broad themes Natural Systems, Resources, Technology, Security, Society, Economy, Politics, Mobility, Spatial and Population. A detailed and summary version of these has been provided.
- Scenarios: The Scenarios Report used the horizon scanning output to identify a number of key drivers and uncertainties facing Gwent. The scenarios approach will help PSBs think about these trends when developing their well-being plans and what their impact might be.

- 3.5 To support the embedding of this work in the PSBs well-being plans a Gwent wide Futures Conference is being planned in November 2018 to share the key messages

from the work completed and support the development of PSB well-being plans by understanding more about what might happen in the future and what is driving change. Following the conference, workshops in each of the 5 PSB areas in Gwent are being established. The workshop in Monmouthshire will build on the key messages from the reports and conference and introduce the scenario work to test and develop the thinking on Monmouthshire's Wellbeing Plan against the scenarios and Horizon scans. The arrangements for the Monmouthshire workshop are currently being established.

Climate Ready Gwent:

- 3.6 GSWAG have identified that regional collaboration on climate adaptation would enable better local delivery. **Adapting to Climate Change: From lived experience to strategic action** is a project being undertaken by the Climate Ready Gwent Working Group. The group has been awarded funding from Welsh Government to complete the project which aims to "identify landscape scale opportunities for climate adaptation using an ecosystems approach and make recommendations for future strategic regional collaboration."
- 3.7 Partners from across the region will develop the vision for a climate resilient Gwent. This vision will be directly informed by the lived experience of communities and landscapes which have been exposed to extreme weather events in the past. Working with innovative and artistic consultants and with specific communities, the project will provide a set of creative outputs which will depict past events and imagine future resilience. The aim of these products will be to influence the required changes to policy and practice that will enable Gwent to take the necessary steps towards being climate ready for the future.
- 3.8 The tender brief for a consultant to work with communities and gather these stories is out and the Climate Ready Gwent group are in the process of appointment. The work needs to be completed by the end of March.

Happy Communities

- 3.9 In 2017/18 the five Public Service Boards within the Gwent region agreed to use the Happy Communities tools in order to better measure, understand and improve the well-being of their populations. Happy Communities provides two tools: the Happy Communities Index (now called Thriving Places Index in Wales) which measures the local conditions for community well-being and the Happiness Pulse which is a measure of personal well-being.
- 3.10 The Index is a framework of local authority level indicators which builds a picture of an area summarised under the broad headings of local conditions, sustainability and equality. Data Cymru published their first release of the Thriving Places Wales Index in April 2018, www.thrivingplaces.wales/. The Happiness Pulse measures personal well-being in communities through a resident survey. The survey provides a well-being score for people who completed the survey under three areas, Be, Do and Connect and helps people understand how to improve their well-being. The survey was carried out across the five Gwent PSB areas in early 2018. Further analysis of the results of the Happiness Pulse survey is being undertaken to understand what the results tell us about well-being in Monmouthshire and explore the possibility of allowing comparison with other areas in Gwent. An evaluation of the project will inform future work on measuring personal well-being.

4. REASONS

- 4.1 To ensure that members understand the regional work that is being undertaken to embed the Well-being of Future Generations Act and are able to hold the Public Service Board to account.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None at this stage. The funding for these programmes has come from Welsh Government Grant funding which was made available to PSBs to work on collaborative projects to support the development of well-being plans.

6. EQUALITY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This is an update report and does not propose any change in policy or service and so no assessment has been completed.

7. AUTHOR

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