

SUBJECT:	GWENT PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD: WELL-BEING PLAN
MEETING:	Council
DATE:	22nd June 2023
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	All

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To ensure that members understand the challenges facing Gwent and the steps being taken collaboratively by public services in the region to address these and to approve the Gwent Public Service Board's Well-being Plan ahead of publication.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Council approve the Well-being Plan ahead of approval by the Gwent Public Services Board.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The Well-being of Future Generations Act places a duty on public bodies to 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.
- 3.2 The Act also created Public Service Boards. These are collaborations of public and voluntary sector services in our area. Between 2016 and 2021 Monmouthshire had its own PSB, as did the other local authority areas in Gwent. This meant that partners like The Police, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and the Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations, were attending five meetings, often discussing similar topics. The formation of a Gwent PSB enabled us to discharge our legal responsibilities, avoid duplication and work collaboratively and at scale on the biggest challenges facing communities.
- 3.3 Each Board must prepare and publish a well-being plan setting out its objectives and the steps it proposes to take to meet them. This needs to be published one year after the last county council election.
- 3.4 It contains two well-being objectives which are described in more detail on pages 12 and 13 of the plan:
- We want to create a fairer, more equitable and inclusive Gwent for all, and
 - We want a climate-ready Gwent, where our environment is valued and protected, benefitting our well-being now and for future generations.
- 3.5 These are clearly aligned with the commitments and aspirations in the Council's Community and Corporate Plan. Working in collaboration with other public service

providers will enable us to work at scale to tackle the issues that matter most. The Gwent objectives are underpinned by five specific steps:

- Take action to reduce the cost-of-living crisis in the longer term.
- Provide and enable the supply of good quality, affordable, appropriate homes.
- Take action to reduce our carbon emissions, help Gwent adapt to climate change, and protect and restore our natural environment.
- Take action to address inequities, particularly in relation to health, through the framework of the Marmot Principles.
- Enable and support people, neighbourhoods, and communities to be resilient, connected, thriving and safe.

- 3.6 Of equal significance to the objectives, is the commitment from the PSB to become a Marmot Region. This means that we will work with the Institute of Health Equity, led by Professor Sir Michael Marmot to undertake evidence-based action to reduce inequalities in Gwent.
- 3.7 The draft well-being plan has been subject to scrutiny at Monmouthshire's Public Services Scrutiny Committee as well as a Gwent joint regional committee which includes two Monmouthshire councillors. Amongst other issues, the committee had concerns that the plan was too generic and that it lacked the necessary measures that would enable to PSB to be held to account for delivery.
- 3.8 An officer workshop was subsequently held to review the committee's findings and agree a way forward. The points have been accepted and all partners recognise that more work needs to be done. This work is in progress and should be concluded in this calendar year. We would expect the work to identify specific projects that the partners will deliver in collaboration as well agreeing local activity which make the plan more bespoke to our area.
- 3.9 We have a local delivery group, The Monmouthshire Programme Board, chaired by a senior officer that links directly to the Gwent PSB to ensure that local issues remain at the forefront of partnership delivery. There is a good alignment between the priorities of the PSB document and our own Community and Corporate Plan.
- 3.10 A [draft performance framework](#) has been produced and presented to the joint scrutiny committee earlier this month. The work was received positively, and the framework will continue to evolve alongside the development of actions in the more detailed delivery plans.
- 3.11 We recognise that more work needs to be done to ensure that activity is specific, measurable, and most importantly, impactful. Officers are confident that this is in progress and the four other councils in Gwent have already approved the document ahead of a final decision by the Gwent PSB. Delaying its endorsement would create a number of logistical problems. The preferred approach is to continue to develop this work once the plan has been approved.

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

- 4.1 The plan will have a positive impact on groups with protected characteristics as well as the seven national well-being goals identified in the Well-being of Future Generations Act. It has been agreed by regional partners that a full impact assessment will be completed

alongside the development of the more detailed delivery plans that flow from the Well-being Plan.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 5.1 Each of the steps in the well-being plan have been developed by partners. At this stage the steps identified remain broad and the precisely how they are to be achieved is still being discussed. Each new proposal brought forward to deliver against these objectives that has implications for the council will be subject to an individual decision in accordance with the constitution.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 6.1 The Plan contains two well-being objectives that will be measured over time. These are:
- We want to create a fairer, more equitable and inclusive Gwent for all, and
 - We want a climate-ready Gwent, where our environment is valued and protected, benefitting our well-being now and for future generations.
- 6.2 A draft performance measurement framework has been developed and is [available here](#). This is focused largely on population level measures and will continue to evolve as detailed delivery plans are developed. There are also 46 national well-being measures that will be used to assess progress over time.
- 6.3 The actions will be monitored by the Monmouthshire Programme Board. They will also be examined by the Gwent PSB regional scrutiny which has two councillors from each of the five local authority members. Headline quantitative measures and progress updates will be reported to the committee. A full evaluation of progress will be produced annually to ensure that the PSB can be held to account for progress.

7. REASONS:

- 7.1 To set clear objectives that public services in will collaborate on to achieve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being across Gwent.
- 7.2 To ensure that the plan is approved by the statutory members of the PSB, prior to publication, in-line with the Statutory Guidance underpinning the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 The objectives within the well-being plan are the collective responsibility of the members of the Gwent PSB. Monmouthshire County Council has agreed its own well-being objectives, and these are embedded within the Community and Corporate Plan that was approved in April. At this stage, the PSB's plan outlines some broad steps that will be worked up into more detailed actions. Those that have a resource implication for the local authority over and above that already agreed by members will be subject to decisions in accordance with this council's constitution at a future date.

9. CONSULTEES:

Regional Public Services Bord Scrutiny Committee
Gwent Public Services Board
Cabinet
Strategic Leadership Team

The plan was endorsed by the regional scrutiny committee on 29th March. Some concerns were raised by the committee as references in paragraph 3.7 above. This led to agreement to undertake additional work which is referenced in the body of this report.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Gwent Well-being Assessment - <https://www.gwentpsb.org/en/well-being-plan/well-being-assessment/>

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