

Scrutiny Report



Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships

Part 1

Date: 28th July 2021

Subject Formation of a Regional PSB

Author Scrutiny Adviser

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Area / Role / Subject
Tracy McKim	Policy Partnership and Involvement Manager
Nicola Dance	Senior Policy and Partnership Officer

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1 Recommendations to the Committee

a) note and comment on the recommendations in the common appended report particularly:

- To note the proposal to move to a regional PSB as outlined in the report and the importance of maintaining strong local partnerships.
- To note the requirement to establish regional Scrutiny and to receive further details on this as appropriate.
- To support the development of Local Delivery Partnerships and ensure that these are considered in local Scrutiny work programmes.
- To note the developing arrangements to establish Regional Scrutiny.
- To continue to support Scrutiny of the current Well-Being Plans to 2023 through existing local partnership Scrutiny arrangements.

b) comment on the future role of the Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships in scrutinising Newport's existing well-being plan until 2023, community safety scrutiny (Police and Justice Act 2006), scrutiny of local delivery under the new Gwent Well-being Plan 2023-2028.

2 Context

Background

- 2.1 The Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015 enables two or more Public Services Boards (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. Each PSB in the Gwent region has agreed this in principle and to establish a Regional PSB in September 2021.

The PSBs and G10 have also considered the importance of maintaining the existing strong local partnerships in each area to support delivery of the Well-being Plan and also other partnership work.

The existing individual Well-being Plans across Gwent will continue to be delivered through local partnerships and will be overseen by the current local scrutiny arrangements until spring 2023.

The driver for the change to a regional approach and plan considered by the G10 leadership were:

- 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.
- opportunity to develop effective 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 and planning processes.
- The approach supports the Welsh Government review on 'strategic partnerships' and the recent Audit Wales Review of Public Services Boards.

Discussions with Partnerships Scrutiny will be ongoing and continue, to ensure the development of effective local Scrutiny for Newport partnership arrangements. This will include a range of work including community safety and the ongoing monitoring of the current Well-being Plan.

The five PSB partnership leads have written a common report on behalf of the five Gwent area PSBs to present through their organisational governance structures prior to the commencement of the new arrangements in September 2021 and this is attached to this report.

The common report outlines a series of recommendations:

1. To note the proposal to move to a regional PSB as outlined in the report and the importance of maintaining strong local partnerships.
2. To note the requirement to establish regional Scrutiny and to receive further details on this as appropriate.
3. The local assessment of well-being to be agreed by 5th May 2022 will be added to the Council work programme for sign off
4. To note the proposed changes to terms of reference, and to make any relevant changes to committee structures and constitution.

5. To support the development of Local Delivery Partnerships and ensure that these are considered in local Scrutiny work programmes.
6. To note the developing arrangements to establish Regional Scrutiny.
7. To continue to support Scrutiny of the current Well-Being Plans to 2023 through existing local partnership Scrutiny arrangements.

The report sets out further detail on this and the continued delivery of the current One Newport Well-being Plan 2018-2023. The Council's governance and constitution will also be amended to reflect these changes.

The future arrangements will include Local Delivery Partnerships in each area comprising each of the statutory and invited members, plus other local partners. The report sets out further detail on this and the continued delivery of the current OneNewport Well-Being Plan 2018-2023. The Council's constitution will also be amended to reflect these changes.

Implications for Newport City Council and Scrutiny

This formation of a regional PSB will mean that the current OneNewport PSB is reformed as the OneNewport local delivery partnership. This important partnership body will continue to develop in its new role. Newport City Council will be a member of the regional PSB and work with partners across the regional to develop and deliver a regional Well-being Assessment (May 2022) and Well-being Plan (May 2023).

Council received the common report on 20th July *[and authorised the Proper Officer to make the necessary consequential amendments to the Council's Constitution to reflect the changes in governance arrangements and terms of reference]*.

The formation of a regional PSB requires the establishment of regional Scrutiny, The proposal to establish a Joint Scrutiny Committee to review and scrutinise the work of the Gwent PSB will require changes to the terms of reference of Partnerships Scrutiny Committee. The Council has the legal power to establish joint scrutiny committees with the other local authorities in accordance with the 2011 Measure.

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 and terms of reference. It is anticipated that the administration for the Regional Scrutiny Committee will rotate between the five local authorities in the Gwent region.

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.

Ongoing Scrutiny of the current Well-Being Plans continues within the local partnership Scrutiny arrangements. The Partnerships Scrutiny Committee will also continue to be the designated crime and disorder committee under the Police and Justice Act 2006 and will continue to have a role in scrutinising the work of the Local Delivery Partnership. Discussions with the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee will be ongoing and continue, to ensure the development of effective local Scrutiny for Newport partnership arrangements.

Previous Consideration of this item

- 2.2 On 19th May, Committee members received an informal briefing on the background to this item and proposal to form a regional PSB, and publish a regional Well-being Assessment and Well-being Plan. This was to introduce key elements of the proposals prior to consideration by the Committee on 28th July.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 The appended report is being presented in each of the five local authority areas in the Gwent region. It details the arrangements for the formation of a Gwent PSB from September this year and confirms the decision of the board members across the five existing Public Services Boards to dissolve and merge as a single Gwent PSB.

The future arrangements will include Local Delivery Partnerships in each area comprising each of the statutory and invited members, plus other local partners. The report sets out further detail on this and the continued delivery of the current OneNewport Well-being Plan 2018-2023. The Council's constitution will also be amended to reflect these changes.

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

- a) note and comment on the recommendations in the common appended report and as below:
 - 1 To note the proposal to move to a regional PSB as outlined in the report and the importance of maintaining strong local partnerships.
 - 2 To note the requirement to establish regional Scrutiny and to receive further details on this as appropriate.
 - 3 The local assessment of well-being to be agreed by 5th May 2022 will be added to the Council work programme for sign off
 - 4 To note the proposed changes to terms of reference, and to make any relevant changes to committee structures and constitution.
 - 5 To support the development of Local Delivery Partnerships and ensure that these are considered in local Scrutiny work programmes.
 - 6 To note the developing arrangements to establish Regional Scrutiny.
 - 7 To continue to support Scrutiny of the current Well-Being Plans to 2023 through existing local partnership Scrutiny arrangements.
- b) To comment on the future role of the Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships in scrutinising Newport's existing well-being plan until 2023, community safety scrutiny (Police and Justice Act 2006), scrutiny of local delivery under the new Gwent Well-being Plan 2023-2028.

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Newport City Council Corporate Plan 2017-2022 – the Corporate Plan contains the Council's Well-being Statement and well-being objectives, which contribute to the achievement of the national well-being goals.

The Council is a statutory member of the PSB and is therefore collectively responsible for publishing a Local Well-Being Plan. The well-being objectives in both the Well-Being Plan and the Corporate Plan are aligned to take account of the well-being goals and the sustainable development principle.

6 Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

6.1 General

Each PSB must prepare and publish a local well-being plan setting out its local objectives and the steps it proposes to meet them. Newport's existing Well-being Plan sets out a number of objectives, priorities and interventions that show how the PSB intends to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the local area. Under the new arrangements, Newport's Well-being Plan will run until March 2023 and then be superseded in May 2023 by a regional Well-being Plan published by the regional PSB.

6.2 Wellbeing Goals

Through the its Well-being Plan published for the Gwent Area in 2023, the regional PSB will be seeking to maximise its contribution to all seven Well-being Goals, Similarly Newport's existing Well-being Plan, which will be delivered by the Newport Local Delivery Partnership until March 2023 addresses all the Well-being Goals as follows:

- *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*

6.3 Sustainable Development Principles

The new regional Plan, once published, will demonstrate how the regional PSB, and the Council as a member of the PSB, will apply the sustainable development principle by looking to the long term, finding enabling solutions and interventions to prevent problems, take an integrated approach, collaborate with others and involve local people and communities.

Part of the rationale for moving towards a regional PSB is to facilitate increased collaboration and integration of activity with other boards like the Regional Partnership Board, which operate on a regional footprint. The establishment of Local Delivery Partnerships will add weight to ensuring the voices of local people are heard and that they are involved in PSB activity and decisions that affect them.

Currently partners across the five PSBs in the region are working together on the development of a “Gwent” Well-being Assessment. A consultation exercise will involve local stakeholders in the process.

7. Background Papers

- Report attached with appendices and background papers received by all local authorities.
- [Newport Local Well-being Plan](#)
- [OneNewport partnership](#) work
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Shared Purpose: Shared Future – Statutory guidance on the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:
 - [SPSF 1: Core guidance](#)
 - [SPSF 3: Collective role \(public services boards\)](#)
- [Guidance for Local Authority Scrutiny Committees on the scrutiny of Public Services Boards](#)

Report Completed: 15th July 2021