

Report



Democratic Services Committee

Information only

Date: 21st February 2023

Subject **Update on Appointments to Regional Scrutiny Committee for the Gwent Public Services Board**

Purpose To inform the Committee concerning the arrangements for appointments to regional scrutiny committee that will scrutinise the work of the Gwent Public Services Board (PSB) under Section 35 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

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Ward City wide

Summary On 30th November 2022 Partnerships resolved to recommend the Terms of Reference for the new regional scrutiny and for two representatives to be agreed by full Council. This report provides further details of the arrangements for regional scrutiny and the procedural arrangements for appointing representatives.

Proposal **To note the contents of the report, and the procedural arrangements.**

Action by Democratic and Electoral Services Manager

Timetable Appointments to be voted upon in full Council on 28th February

Background

This report provides further details of the arrangements for regional scrutiny.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 came into force in April 2016 and is about improving the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales. It is designed to support and deliver a public service that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. As one of the 44 bodies named in the Act, the council must consider the Act in everything it does.

Appended to this report is a report prepared by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and presented to the Gwent Public Services Board (PSB) on the 29th of September 2022. It sets out the direction of travel towards a regional scrutiny committee to scrutinise the work of the Gwent PSB.

The Gwent PSB accepted all the recommendations in the report. The Scrutiny Officers in the five constituent local authorities are taking them forward with a view to the regional committee holding an inaugural meeting in March/April 2023.

Scrutiny Arrangements

On 30th November 2022, Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships resolved to recommend the Terms of Reference for the new regional scrutiny committee and for two representatives from Newport City Council to be agreed by full Council.

The Regional Scrutiny Committee will have an equal number of elected members from each appointing local authority, none of which will be executive or cabinet members; and each local authority and statutory partner organisation will determine and nominate its representative(s) in accordance with its own arrangements, reflecting the political majority where relevant. For Newport City Council, this means appointing two Labour representatives.

Under the Council's Constitution, Article 4.2 of Part 2 confirms that appointing representatives to outside bodies is a function of full Council, unless the appointment is an executive function or has been delegated by Council. Therefore, the appointment of the two representatives will be an item of business to be determined at the Council meeting on 28th February.

The Committee is therefore asked to receive and note the development of a new regional scrutiny committee to take forward the duties under Section 35 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and the appointment of two representatives by full Council.

Constitutional arrangements will need to be amended to reflect the discharge of this scrutiny function through a regional joint-committee. This will be considered under the Terms of Reference of the Democratic Services Committee who will make recommendations, as necessary, to Cabinet and/or the Council concerning the Council's corporate governance and decision-making processes and the terms of the Council's Constitution.

Background Papers

<http://www.gwentpsb.org>

[06-Regional-Scrutiny-Committee-incl-App2-Gwent-PSB-29-Sept-22.pdf \(gwentpsb.org\)](#)

[Part 1 Report Template \(newport.gov.uk\)](#)

[Appendix 1 Report to Gwent Public Services Board 29th September 2022.pdf \(newport.gov.uk\)](#)