

Report

Council

Part 1

Date: 28 February 2023

Subject Gwent Well-being Plan 2023-28

Purpose To update Council on progress in developing the Gwent Well-being Plan 2023-28

Author Policy and Partnership Manager

Ward All wards

Summary In accordance with the Well-Being of Future Generations Act, the regional Gwent Public Services Board (PSB) has carried out a Regional Assessment of the Social, Economic, Environment and Cultural Well-being of Gwent. This was supported by the creation of Local Well-being Assessments for each of the five areas.

Following this, the Gwent Well-being Plan has been finalised following a period of consultation. The Plan is presented for approval and adoption by Council before final sign off by the Gwent PSB in mid-April.

Alongside this, One Newport is developing a Local Action Plan which will both support the achievement of the Regional Objectives and allow Newport partners to continue its focus on key areas of importance for Newport.

This report outlines the progress of the Local Action Plan and presents the Gwent Well-Being Plan for approval.

Proposal Council is requested:

a) To review and accept the Gwent Well-Being Plan or propose amendments

Action by Council

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Head of People, Policy and Transformation
- Head of Finance
- Head of Law and Regulation

Signed

Background

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.

The Act mandated the creation of Public Service Boards (PSBs) for each Local Authority area in Wales. Each public services board must improve the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of its area by contributing to the achievement of the 7 National Well-being goals:

- 1) A prosperous Wales
- 2) A resilient Wales
- 3) A healthier Wales
- 4) A more equal Wales
- 5) A Wales of cohesive communities
- 6) A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language
- 7) A globally responsible Wales



The PSB achieves this through assessing the state of economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being in its area and setting objectives that are designed to maximise its contribution to achieving these goals. These objectives must be presented as part of a Well-being Plan which must be published within one year of Local Authority Elections being held. This means that a new Plan must be published by May 2023.

Gwent PSB

In June 2021 Newport moved from a Newport PSB to a Gwent PSB alongside Caerphilly, Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent, and Monmouthshire. Discussions had been ongoing for several years about the advantages of taking a regional approach to the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act within Gwent. The One Newport Partnership (formerly the Newport PSB) continues its valuable work in supporting the delivery of the current Wellbeing plan and will retain responsibility from June 2023 for the achievement of the Local Action Plans detailed below.

Well-being Assessment

The Gwent PSB carried out a Regional Assessment of the Social, Economic, Environment and Cultural Well-being of Gwent in late 2021/early 2022. This was supported by the creation of Local Well-being Assessments for each of the five areas. The Regional and Local Well-being Assessments were published in May 2022 and are linked to in the background papers section below.

Well-being Plan

The Regional Well-being assessments led to the creation of potential focus areas for the Well-being objectives. These were initially assessed by members of the officer Gwent Strategic Well-being Assessment Group (GSWAG) which sits underneath the PSB and contains representatives of organisations that constitute the PSB. Following this assessment, the PSB identified 3 areas of focus for the Well-being Plan:

- Environment (Climate and Nature emergencies)
- Health and Well-being/Inequalities
- Community Cohesion (including Community Safety and Substance Misuse)

A detailed analysis of these 3 areas was carried out by suitable Partner organisations and this informed the development of draft Objectives and 'Steps' which provide the framework for how these objectives will be achieved. These were presented at Scrutiny and Cabinet and feedback provided as part of the consultation period.

Following feedback gained from the consultation from both stakeholders and members of the public, the Plan was amended to reduce the number of objectives and steps. The interconnecting Well-being Objectives Steps in the final plan are as follows, with the full plan attached in background papers:

Well-being Objectives

- We want to create a fairer, more equitable and inclusive Gwent for all
- We want a climate-ready Gwent, where our environment is valued and protected, benefitting our well-being now and for future generations.

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
- Taking 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

Please could members note the following when considering the plan –

- The Communications report is still to be completed. It's a factual, supporting document and therefore doesn't affect the nature, objectives, steps or outcomes of the plan.
- The IHE report won't be ready until June, so appendix 2 is a place holder.
- All hyperlinks will be added to the final document.

All other partner organisations will also need to sign off the Plan and final sign-off from the Gwent PSB is planned for April 2023. The report will then be finalised and translated before publication in May 2023; with the new objectives coming into effect from June 2023.

Local Action Plans

To ensure that the move to a regional PSB did not detrimentally impact on the local nature of well-being delivery that has been built up since the inception of the Act, the decision was made by the Gwent PSB to have the regional Plan underpinned by Local Action Plans for each of the 5 Gwent Regions. These Local Action Plans will serve two purposes – to identify specific actions which will contribute at a local level to the achievement of the Regional Well-being Objectives and Steps; and to identify priorities and actions which are applicable to Newport which may be relevant at a regional level. Workshops took place in December 2022 involving Council Officers and representatives of Partner organisations within Newport. The results from these workshops are being used to develop a draft plan in collaboration with representatives from partnership organisations. This draft plan is due to be signed off by One Newport in March 2023 before a period of public consultation. The final version will then be signed off by One Newport in May 2023.

Financial Summary

There are no costs to Newport associated with developing the Well-being Plan. All work is being carried out with existing resource and within core budgets.

Risks

Risk Title / Description	Risk Impact score of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Risk Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	Risk Mitigation Action(s) What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect?	Risk Owner Officer(s) responsible for dealing with the risk?
Gwent Well-being Plan is not signed off by all Partners and the Gwent PSB in time for publication in May 2023	M	L	The timeline for the development and sign off of the Regional Well-being Plan has been amended to allow the maximum possible time for Partner sign off	Officers within Caerphilly Borough Council who own the creation of the Plan
The needs of Newport are not taken into account in the Plan development.	M	L	Officers across the region are working on the proposals, supported by the members of the OneNewport partnership.	Policy and Partnership Manager

*Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

The development of the Gwent Well-Plan and associated Newport Local Action Plan will draw on a number of Council Policies, including (but not limited to) the Corporate Plan 2023-28 (which includes Newport Council's individual Well-being Objectives), the Climate Change Plan 2022-27, The Sustainable Travel Strategy and the Adopted Local Development Plan 2011-26.

Options Available and considered

- 1) To note the progress made and accept the Well-being Plan as set out in this report.
- 2) To note the progress made as set out in this report and propose amendments to the Well-being Plan.

Recommendations.

Preferred Option and Why

Option 1 is preferred, ensuring the needs of Newport residents, communities and businesses are represented and to meet statutory requirements for adoption and publication.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

There is no adverse budgetary impact linked to the development of the Gwent Wellbeing Plan, all work on the plan has been carried out using existing budgets. All actions identified in the plan will need to be met from core budgets or grant funding and will be monitored closely as part of well-established and ongoing budget monitoring arrangements with any potential future budget pressures being identified in the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

There are no specific legal issues arising from the Report. The final version of Gwent Well-Being Plan has been developed following a 12-week public consultation process, the results of which have been taken into account when finalising the Plan as set out in this report. Council is required to agree the final version of the Plan prior to its presentation to the Gwent PSB in April 2023, alongside the other Gwent Authorities.

Comments of Head of People, Policy and Transformation

From an HR perspective, there are no direct staffing implications to this report.

The Council is a statutory member of the Gwent PSB, which is required to publish a Well-being Plan under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act. The development of the regional wellbeing plan by the Gwent PSB has been informed by Gwent and Newport residents and will ensure a continued focus on improving the wellbeing of our residents. Delivery of the Gwent Well-being Plan in Newport will be through the One Newport Partnership of which the Council is also a member.

Scrutiny Comments

Partnership Scrutiny Committee has been consulted on progress regarding the Gwent PSB arrangements, and the development of the Gwent Well-Being Plan, at their meeting on the 30 November 2022. Feedback from scrutiny members was included in the Newport City Council response and will support future work.

A copy of Scrutiny comments follows below -

The Committee wished to thank the Officers for their attendance and the detailed presentation, which provided a good understanding about how the Gwent Public Service Board will work. Members of the Committee explored the benefits of the partnership arrangement in terms of outcomes and sharing resources and best practice and sought clarification from Officers on the funding arrangements underpinning this and hopes that it will be fair and transparent. The Committee also asked if examples of sharing good practice could be provided in future to evidence this positive output of partnership working.

Whilst appreciating that the Wellbeing Plan has been created based on a Needs Assessment for Newport and the other areas, Members commented that Newport has different demographics and geography when compared with the other areas in the Board, and that Newport's requirements must be adequately and fairly represented. The Committee conveyed their expectation that the Council needs to maintain a local level of planning and scrutiny through governance arrangements.

In Objective 2 of the Plan, the Committee felt that more emphasis on tackling antisocial behaviour would be welcome, including how the Gwent Public Services Board will measure and monitor improvements and progress made.

In Objective 3, although the report references the impacts of a changing climate including more extreme weather events, the Committee felt that there should be more mention of flood risk and response to this kind of emergency event as this is an area which would particularly affect Newport and suggested an additional step of "Ensure that the lives of the people of the region are protected by physical measures taken to alleviate the threat of flooding and storm-induced land slips, because global warming continues to increase sea and ocean levels and increase flood-risk over large areas of the south of the region while severe weather events threaten coal-tip slippages and flash-flooding further north. Physical barriers to ensure the safety of the population of the region are an urgent necessity."

The Committee were pleased to hear about the level of consultation that the Partnership Team undertake with the residents of Newport. Members wished to promote consultation that is inclusive of all Newport residents. The report gave a questionnaire as an example of the consultation process, and Members prompted Officers to clarify the other channels through which views and feedback were sought. Members felt that some groups may be more difficult to engage and less likely to complete an online questionnaire. Members wished to emphasise the need for inclusive consultation that seeks to actively engage with residents who may be less heard in digital engagement.

The Committee noted the content of the survey and confirmed they were happy with the objectives and steps.

Cabinet Comments

A version of this report was also presented to Cabinet at their meeting on December 14th. Cabinet highlighted the importance of data sharing between partnership organisations to achieve the objectives. Cabinet also acknowledged the work of the partnership organisations to date and stated that the proposed objectives were ambitious but achievable.

Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment:

- **Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**
- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Socio-economic Duty**
- **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

This is an information-only report, so a full FEIA is not required. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is the focus of this report. All actions which are proposed to support the achievement of the Regional Well-being objectives will be assessed to make sure that they are in line with the Equality Act 2010 and the council's Socio-economic duty. All of the documentation relating to the development of the Plan (assessments, the Plan itself, consultation content) has been presented in Welsh as well as English.

Consultation

As noted in the background section, consultation has taken place on the Gwent Well-being Plan with public sector organisations, the third sector and residents. Workshops with partners have taken place to support the to support the development of the Local Action Plan with public consultation planned for later in the year.

Background Papers

Well-being Plan for Gwent 2023-28



WBP 2023
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[Regional and Local Wellbeing Assessments](#)
[Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#)

Dated: 28 February 2023