

# Report

## Council

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### Part 1

Date: 20 July 2021

### Subject **Formation of a Regional PSB**

**Purpose** To update Council on the formation of a regional 'Gwent' PSB, and the next round of the Assessment of Local Well-being and Local Well-being Plans and to seek Council approval of the necessary governance and constitutional changes to implement these proposed arrangements.

**Author** Partnership Policy and Involvement Manager  
Head of Law and Regulation

**Ward** All

**Summary** 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.

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.

**Proposal** That Council notes and approves:

- (1) the merger of the Public Services Boards and the establishment of a regional Gwent PSB;
- (2) the proposed governance arrangements and terms of reference for the Gwent PSB as set out in Appendix 3 of the common report;
- (3) the development of a single regional Well-Being Plan, in accordance with the proposals set out in the common report;
- (4) the establishment of a regional Joint Scrutiny Committee to review and scrutinise the work of the Gwent PSB;
- (5) authorisation for the Proper Officer to make the necessary consequential amendments to the Council's Constitution to reflect these changes in governance arrangements and terms of reference.

**Action by** Chief Executive, Head of Law and Regulation

**Timetable** Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

Chief Executive  
Leader of the Council  
Partner local authorities in Gwent

**Signed**

## Background

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 Partnership Scrutiny are ongoing and will 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 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 the report.

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.

## Changes for Newport City Council

This change 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 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).

The 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 OneNewport Well-being Plan 2018-2023. The Council's governance and constitution will also be amended to reflect these changes.

### Financial Summary

Individual Public Service Boards are not core funded bodies, project activity is either core funded or via Welsh Government grant therefore as such there is no direct financial implication of developing a regional PSB.

### Risks

Individual Public Service Boards are not core funded bodies, project activity is either core funded or via Welsh Government grant therefore there are no financial risks to developing a regional PSB.

Once the regional body is in place there will be no local Public Service Board. Reporting will go to the regional board; however, local scrutiny arrangements continue to remain in place.

The ongoing objectives in each of the well-being plans will continue to be delivered through the local partnership teams, therefore the risk to the current well-being plan and projects associated with that plan continue to be managed by the local boards.

<b>Risk Title / Description</b>	<b>Risk Impact score of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)</b>	<b>Risk Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)</b>	<b>Risk Mitigation Action(s)</b> What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect?	<b>Risk Owner</b> Officer(s) responsible for dealing with the risk?
The current Well-Being Plan commitments are not delivered.	M	L	Ensuring that the OneNewport local partnership is developed, and continues to deliver on the commitments in the Plan.	Chief Executive
The interests of Newport are not fully considered in the regional planning process.	H	L	Senior membership of the Gwent PSB at officer and member level. Ensuring that Newport's needs are fully outlined in the Well-Being Assessment.	Chief Executive/ Policy Partnership and Involvement Manager

\* Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

### 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.

## **Options Available and considered**

1. To approve the establishment of a Gwent PSB, a single Well-Being Plan and a regional Joint Scrutiny Committee and agree the necessary governance and constitutional changes to implement these proposed arrangements.
2. Not to approve the proposed regional PSB and Scrutiny arrangements

## **Preferred Option and Why**

To approve the establishment of a Gwent PSB, a single Well-Being Plan and a regional Joint Scrutiny Committee and agree the necessary governance and constitutional changes to implement these proposed arrangements, in order to deliver the benefits of collaborative working and improved well-being outcomes at a regional levels, as set out above and in the annexed common report.

## **Comments of Chief Financial Officer**

There will be no adverse budgetary impact in developing a regional Public Services Board, all associated activities will be funded through existing budgets or Welsh Government grant.

## **Comments of Monitoring Officer**

The proposed action is in accordance with the Council's statutory powers under the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) (Act) 2015 and the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011. In accordance with section 47 of the 2015 Act, two or more PSBs have the power to merge if it would assist them in contributing to the achievement of their well-being goals. The benefits of collaborative working at a regional level are set out in this report and the annexed common report. Therefore, the Council can approve the proposed merger of the One Newport PSB with the other 4 regional PSB's to form a single Gwent PSB, based on the G10 membership. The terms of reference will be a matter for the Gwent PSB to approve at their first meeting, but Council will need to agree to participate on the basis of the proposed governance arrangements, as there is provision for non-statutory members of the G10 group to have full participation and voting rights. The move to a regional PSB will also require the development of a single, statutory Well-Being Plan for Gwent. As the current Newport Well-Being Plan is a policy framework document, then these proposals will need to be approved by full Council, together with the necessary authorisation to make the consequential amendments to the Constitution to reflect these changes in governance and terms of reference. The PSB is not a decision-making body, as such, and therefore there is no requirement to change the scheme of delegation. However, 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. However, the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee will 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.

## **Comments of Head of People and Business Change**

As the author of the report, the comments of the Head of People and Business Change are contained throughout.

One Newport PSB has a Well-Being Plan, which will continue to be delivered until 2023. This will be through a Local Delivery Partnership. The work of One Newport PSB is currently co-ordinated by the Policy, Performance and Involvement Team. From September, the team will co-ordinate the work of the Local Delivery Partnership. Co-ordination of the Regional PSB will rotate between the five local authorities in the Gwent area on a two-year cycle.

Work is currently underway on the development of a regional Well-being Assessment for the Gwent area. This will involve a significant engagement exercise to hear the views of local people. The engagement approach will be consistent across the five areas but will be co-ordinated in Newport by the Council. There will be second engagement exercise as part of the development of the new regional Well-being Plan.

The report outlines how the proposal takes account of the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

## **Scrutiny Committees**

Discussions have been held with members of the Partnership Scrutiny Committee and members of the Committee will continue to be engaged in the development of Scrutiny arrangements.

## **Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**

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.

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.

## **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

Section 17(1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposes a duty on the Local Authority to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.

The role of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee includes (Police and Justice Act 2006) oversight of community safety issues and this will be an important part of the development of the role of the Committee.

## **Consultation**

Consultation has taken place with:  
OneNewport Public Services Board existing membership  
PSB Scrutiny  
All 5 Gwent PSB's and their existing partners  
G10 Executive Group  
Welsh Government  
Well Being of Future Generations Commissioners Office

## **Background Papers**

Report attached with appendices and background papers

[Newport Local Well-being Plan](#)

[OneNewport partnership](#) work

Cabinet and Council Reports April/ May 2018: Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act – Newport's Well-being Plan 2018-23

**Dated: 13 July 2021**