

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Cabinet Meeting: 26 September, 2016

Report of the Leader

Scrutiny of the Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider arrangements for scrutiny of the Vale Public Services Board.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet notes the work being done to develop the Public Services Board (PSB) and the developing Well-being Assessment.

That Cabinet recommend to Council:

2. That the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee is designated the local authority committee with responsibility for scrutinising the Public Services Board.
3. That the terms of reference for the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee be amended to make specific reference to scrutiny of the Public Services Board (PSB).

Reasons for the Recommendations

1. To provide an update to Cabinet on the development of the PSB.
2. To clarify arrangements for scrutiny of the PSB.
3. To ensure the Committee's role in scrutinising the PSB is clearly stated within the Committee's terms of reference.

Background

2. The Well-being of Future Generations Act came into force in April 2016 and its primary aim is to ensure public bodies improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales in accordance with the sustainable development principle.
3. The Act established Public Services Boards (PSBs) in each local authority area and these build on work already undertaken through the Local Service Boards which they replace.

4. The Act sets out seven well-being goals against which specified public bodies and Public Services Boards must set and publish well-being objectives. These objectives must be designed to maximise the contribution to the achievement of the national well-being goals. The seven well-being goals are:
 - 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
5. The work of the PSB must be scrutinised by a designated local authority scrutiny committee. The statutory guidance acknowledges, however, that it will be legitimate for a scrutiny committee to scrutinise the work of the PSB in relation to a particular issue relevant to their terms of reference. The relevant extract from the guidance is attached as [Appendix A](#).
6. A report was presented to Cabinet on the 25th July 2016 which advised Cabinet of the agreed terms of reference and arrangements for the PSB. A copy of the report is attached as [Appendix B](#).
7. The PSB also agreed at its first meeting to adopt the existing Community Strategy and its Delivery Plan and the sub-group arrangements of the former LSB. The PSB will therefore continue to focus on tackling poverty as outlined in the current delivery plan.
8. The PSB must publish a Well-being Plan by May 2018 which must be informed by a well-being assessment. This assessment must be published twelve months before the publication of the PSB's Well-being Plan. Work has already begun on the well-being assessment with an aim to publish it in April 2017. The assessment will include a range of Vale wide data but there will also be a community focus to the work. The PSB has agreed that, where appropriate, information will be provided on a community level for Barry, Eastern Vale and Western Vale. Some data will also be included at lower geographical levels if relevant and available. The needs of vulnerable groups and people with protected characteristics will also be included in the assessment.
9. Officers are working with colleagues in Cardiff and the lead officers for the Population Needs Assessment which has to be undertaken as part of duties on the regional Integrated Health and Social Care Partnership under the Social Services and Well-being Act. This is ensuring a joined up approach to engagement and the sharing of data and expertise.
10. As part of the joint work on engagement a brand has been developed ('Let's talk') which is being used across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan for all relevant engagement activities. The range of activities includes surveys, focus groups and attendance at events, networks and meetings. The first Vale specific survey was undertaken through July and August. More than 800 responses to the survey have been received and these are currently being analysed. The survey was promoted by partners and was available online and in hard copy for example in the Civic Offices, local libraries and Llandough Hospital.

11. In addition to the survey partners have attended a number of events including the Vale Show, Festive, the Penarth Festival, St Athan Community Fun Day and Flying Start Fun Day. Officers also spent a day at Barry Island based in one of the Beach Huts and were able to speak to residents from across the Vale about what they think is good about where they live, what could be better and what services are important for health and well-being.
12. Information from the engagement activity together with relevant data and research information will be included in a draft well-being assessment which will be consulted on in December 2016 and January 2017. This will include consultation with the designated scrutiny committee.

Relevant Issues and Options

13. As noted above, the WG guidance ([Appendix A](#)) states that the work of the PSB must be scrutinised by a designated local authority scrutiny committee. The statutory guidance acknowledges, however, that it will be legitimate for a scrutiny committee to scrutinise the work of the PSB in relation to a particular issue relevant to their terms of reference. It is proposed therefore that the work of the PSB will be reported to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee as it is consistent with the Committee's terms of reference in terms of 'overall monitoring of corporate health' and scrutiny of 'corporate policy and performance'. It is also proposed that reports on specific issues e.g. community safety, NEETs will continue to be reported to the relevant scrutiny committee. This approach would be similar to how the work of the former Local Service Board was scrutinised.
14. As Cabinet are aware, amendments to the terms of reference of Scrutiny Committees require a decision of the Full Council. For this reason, Cabinet are requested to recommend to Council that the Corporate Resources and Performance Scrutiny Committee is designated the local authority committee with responsibility for scrutinising the Public Services Board.

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

15. Statutory guidance states that 'the local authority must make administrative support available to the Public Services Board.' This is considered to be 'ensuring the Public Services Board is established and meets regularly; preparing the agenda and commissioning papers for meetings; inviting participants and managing attendance; work on the annual report and preparation of evidence for scrutiny.'
16. The guidance continues 'it is for the board to determine how it will resource the functions it has to undertake, which are a responsibility of all the statutory members equally. It is for the board to determine appropriate and proportionate resourcing of the board's collective functions.'
17. Administrative, policy and performance management support will be provided by the Council's Performance and Policy team. Work has been undertaken to identify funding and capacity to undertake this work from within existing resources. A Welsh Government grant is funding some of the work needed for the well-being assessment which is also being led by the Performance and Policy team with support from the PSB Business Intelligence Group.

Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

18. The PSB must consider economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the area and contribute to the national well-being goals. The PSB must also work in

accordance with the sustainable development principle, seeking to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)

19. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act received Royal Assent on the 29th April 2015 and came in to force on the 1st April 2016. The Act strengthens existing governance arrangements for improving the well-being of Wales to ensure that present needs are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The new legislation applies to a number of public bodies including local authorities.
20. 'The Act' makes provision by virtue of a Local Authority's Executive arrangements under Part 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended) for the scrutiny of decisions made and actions taken by the PSB, including the review and scrutiny of the board's governance arrangements along with other functions as provided for under 'the Act'. A local authority is entitled, where it has more than one overview and scrutiny committee, to designate a committee for the purposes of carrying out the functions referred to above in accordance with 'the Act'.

Crime and Disorder Implications

21. Crime and disorder information will be included in the well-being assessment and community safety issues will continue to be reported to the PSB. The police, fire service, probation services and Police and Crime Commissioner's office are all represented on the PSB.

Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)

22. There are no specific equal opportunity implications associated with this report. The PSB will engage with hard to reach groups as part of the work on the well-being assessment and plan and an Equality Impact Assessment will also be undertaken.

Corporate/Service Objectives

23. The work of the PSB is consistent with the well-being objectives detailed in the Corporate Plan 2016-20 and will assist with the delivery of a number of commitments.

Policy Framework and Budget

24. The terms of reference for scrutiny committees are a matter for Council to determine.

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

25. No consultation has been necessary for the drafting of this report.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

26. Corporate Performance and Resources

Background Papers

Shared Purpose: Shared Future, Statutory Guidance on the Well-being of Future Generations (WALES) Act 2015 - SPSF 3 Collective role (public services boards)

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