

Meeting of:	Community Liaison Committee
Date of Meeting:	Tuesday, 28 January 2020
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Corporate Performance and Resources
Report Title:	Nomination of Representatives from Town and Community Councils for the Public Services Board, Reshaping Services Town & Community Councils and Voluntary Sector Project Team, Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee and the Strong Communities Fund Evaluation Panel.
Purpose of Report:	To consider appointments to the Public Services Board, Reshaping Services Programme Town & Community Councils and Voluntary Sector Project Team, Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee and the Strong Communities Fund Evaluation Panel
Report Owner:	Karen Bowen, Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer
Responsible Officer:	Rob Thomas, Managing Director
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Due to the corporate nature of this report, no specific Ward Member consultation has been undertaken.
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for decision by the Community Liaison Committee
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To invite a representative of Town and Community Councils to join the Public Services Board as an Invited Participant in line with statutory guidance for the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. 2. To invite a representative of the Town and Community Councils to sit on the Council's Reshaping Services Programme Town & Community Councils and Voluntary Sector Project Team. 3. To invite a representative to sit on the Vale Council's Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee. 4. To invite a representative from a Town Council and a representative from a Community Council to be a member of the Strong Communities Fund Evaluation Panel. 	

Recommendations

- 1.** That the Community Liaison Committee re-appoints a representative or selects a new representative from the 26 Town and Community Council representatives on the Community Liaison Committee to sit on the Public Services Board up to the next Local Government elections.
- 2.** That the Community Liaison Committee re-appoints a representative or selects a new representative to sit on the Council's Reshaping Services Programme Town and Community Councils and Voluntary Sector Project Team up to the next Local Government elections.
- 3.** That the Community Liaison Committee re-appoints a representative or selects a new representative from the 26 Town and Community Council representatives on the Community Liaison Committee to sit on the Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee up to the next Local Government elections.
- 4.** That the Community Liaison Committee re-appoints a representative or selects a new representative from a Town Council and one representative from a Community Council to be a member of the Strong Communities Fund Evaluation Panel up to the next Local Government elections.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 1.** To enable a representative from the Community Liaison Committee to be appointed to the PSB to ensure effective engagement with Town and Community Councils and adhere to the Statutory Guidance for the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act.
- 2.** To ensure effective engagement between Town and Community Councils and the Reshaping Services Programme.
- 5.** To provide a link between the two Committees relating to the Reshaping Services Programme.
- 3.** To enable Town and Community Councils to have involvement in the evaluation of bids to the Council's Strong Communities Grant Fund.

1. Background

- 1.1** On the 5th July 2016 an invitation was extended to the Community Liaison Committee to appoint a representative to sit on the newly created Public Services Board (PSB) which was established under the Well-being of Future Generations Act and replaced the Local Service Board. The appointment was for a twelve-month period. In October 2017 the Committee were again invited to appoint a representative to the PSB but for a two year period.
- 1.2** At the same time the Committee were invited to confirm a representative to sit on the Council's Reshaping Services Challenge Group and Programme Board for twelve months.

- 1.3** In 2017, the Council established a Strong Communities Grant Fund. This fund provides funding to a range of community based organisations to pursue activities consistent with the Council's Corporate Plan. In order for bids to be evaluated in an involving and inclusive way, the Council has determined that bids will initially be reviewed by an evaluation panel with multi-organisational representation, including one representative from a Town Council and one representative from a Community Council. The evaluation panel considers bids and makes recommendations to the Council's Cabinet.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1** The Well-being of Future Generations Act came into force on the 1st April 2015. The Act requires that all public bodies consider the economic, social, environmental and cultural aspects of all decisions we make. The Act formally establishes statutory boards, to be called Public Services Boards (PSBs), in each local authority area in Wales.
- 2.2** The Act also specifies that the PSB must include the following four statutory members: the Local Authority, the Local Health Board, The Welsh Fire & Rescue Authority, and the Natural Resources Body for Wales. Statutory members are collectively responsible for fulfilling the board's statutory duties; unanimous agreement of the statutory members is required in order for the board to fulfil its statutory duties.
- 2.3** The statutory duties placed on the PSB that contribute to the achievement of the national well-being goals as set out in the legislation are: to assess the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in their areas, to set local objectives that are designed to maximise their contribution within their areas to achieving those goals, and that statutory members, in exercising their functions, take all reasonable steps to meet these objectives i.e. through the well-being plan.
- 2.4** In addition to statutory members, PSBs are required to invite certain other persons or organisations to participate in the board. The board must invite specified statutory invitees to participate in the board's activity. These invitees are not required to accept the invitation; however, if they accept the invitation they do not become statutory members of the board but become "invited participants". These invitees include: Welsh ministers, the Chief Police Constable for an area, certain Probation Services, and at least one body representing the relevant voluntary organisations.
- 2.5** Further to the "invited participants", the PSB is required to engage with key partners in the Vale of Glamorgan who have a material interest in the well-being of the area, who deliver important public services, in the preparation, implementation and delivery of the work of the board. These key partners are referred to within the Act as 'other partners'.
- 2.6** Town and Community Councils are named in the Act, in relation to the PSB as 'other partners' which the Board should engage with as appropriate. It is

therefore considered correct for a representative to participate in the PSB and help shape the work and priorities of the PSB.

- 2.7** Although the Vale of Glamorgan PSB will be ensuring effective engagement with all Town and Community Councils it still welcomes a representative participating in the PSB which meets a minimum of five times a year.
- 2.8** The current representative appointed for a term of two years, Penarth Town Councillor Mike Cuddy has played an active role in the PSB, regularly attending meetings and workshops and contributing to the drafting of the Well-being Assessment and the work of the PSB.
- 2.9** In response to the challenging financial climate the Council has developed a strategy for transformational change called Reshaping Services. The strategy was approved in 2014 and is a proactive strategy seeking to reshape the way in which the Council works in order to mitigate the impact of cuts and assist in continuing to provide priority services. The Reshaping Services Strategy provides a framework for the Council to work with over the next three to five years and aligns to our duties under the Well-being of Future Generations Act and in particular the five ways of working, involvement, integration, prevention, looking to the long term and collaboration.
- 2.10** A Programme Board is responsible for managing the overall Programme in all its aspects and reports to the Council's Cabinet. The Programme Board comprises the Managing Director (in the Chair), Corporate Management Team, and Cabinet Members. The service reviews / project teams are supported by officers from a number of service areas, with additional external expertise being brought in as required and when deemed necessary.
- 2.11** In recognition of the important role that Town and Community Councils have in representing local communities, the Council believes they can play an important role in informing the development of the Reshaping Services agenda with regard to concepts such as demand management and the way services are delivered at a very "local" level. Town and Community Councils can also assist with communication and engagement activities, for example raising awareness of changes being made to public services.
- 2.12** As members of the Committee will be aware Town and Community Councils have also been identified as potential providers of some services and have already played a significant role in the creation of community libraries, for example. A project team to further progress the development of the role of Town & Community Councils and the Voluntary Sector has been established. To date, the project team has revised the Council's approach and process for managing Community Asset Transfers and has provided a useful mechanism for identifying and developing opportunities for Town and Community Councils to become further involved.
- 2.13** Councillor D. Reed (Llangan Community Council) is the current representative from the Community Liaison Committee who sits on the Council's Reshaping Services Town & Community Councils and the Voluntary Sector Project Team.

2.14 The Council's Strong Communities Fund enables community groups, the voluntary sector and town and community councils to apply for revenue and capital funding that promotes initiatives within the Vale of Glamorgan consistent with the Council's vision of 'Strong Communities with a bright future'. Eligible schemes include those which are seeking funding to:

- Improve the resilience of organisations/groups or their activities by funding activities which add value to their current work and reduce their reliance on grant funding in the future;
- Provide seed corn funding towards initiatives that can demonstrate longer term sustainability;
- Undertake consultation, feasibility, design and other specialist work to develop proposals for future activity and funding bids;
- Meet the capital costs of schemes by purchasing plant, machinery, equipment or other assets or undertaking maintenance work that would enable viable services to be provided, for example, through increased income generation potential

2.15 Bids for this funding are sought from the following categories of organisation:

- Community led organisations
- Third Sector Organisations
- Town & Community Councils
- Consortia of the above, including those which have established formal governance arrangements such as social enterprises

2.16 The evaluation of bids to the fund is undertaken in line with a series of weighted criteria, which will include:

- Linkages with the Council's Corporate Plan
- Consistency with the Council's Reshaping Services programme
- Consistency with the well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act

2.17 An Evaluation Panel is responsible for evaluating bids and making recommendations to Cabinet for the award of funding up to three times per year. The Evaluation Panel comprises of:

- Leader of the Council
- Cabinet Member with responsibility for Regeneration
- One representative from a Town Council
- One representative from a Community Council
- One representative from each of any donors of recurring third party funding
- One representative from the voluntary sector
- One representative from a member organisation of the Public Services Board.

2.18 The Vale Council's Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee meets three times per year at 6pm during the week with the meetings duration being approximately two hours. One representative from a Town and Community Council was sought in 2017 to join the Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee. The representative being a member of the Community Liaison Committee to enable a link between the two to be maintained and regular updates provided. Councillor A Barnaby (St Athan Community Council) is currently the representative appointed by the Community Liaison Committee in 2017 for a term of two years to sit on the Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

3.1 As outlined within the report at paragraphs 2.1 to 2.21 in particular having regard to engagement.

4. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

4.1 None as a result of this report.

Employment

4.2 None as a result of this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

4.3 None as a result of this report.

5. Background Papers

Statutory Guidance for the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 SPSF4 - Collective Role (Community Councils)

Strong Communities Grant Fund (Cabinet, 3rd April, 2017)