

Meeting of:	Community Liaison Committee
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 14 July 2022
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Corporate Performance and Resources
Report Title:	Nomination of Representatives from Town and Community Councils for the Public Services Board, Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee and the Strong Communities Fund Evaluation Panel.
Purpose of Report:	To consider appointments to the Public Services Board, 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, Chief Executive
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.
Executive Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To invite a representative of Town and Community Councils to join the Public Services Board in line with statutory guidance for the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. • To invite a representative to sit on the Vale Council's Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee. • 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 for a period of two years, up to July 2024.
- 2.** 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 2027 Local Government elections.
- 3.** 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 2027 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 provide a link between the two Committees.
- 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

Public Services Board (PSB)

- 1.1** On the 5th July 2016 an invitation was extended to the Community Liaison Committee to appoint a representative to sit on the 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. The Committee were again invited to appoint a representative to the PSB in both October 2017 and January 2020 but for a two year period.
- 1.2** The current representative appointed for a term of two years in January 2020 is Penarth Town Councillor Mike Cuddy who 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.

Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee

- 1.3** Also in January 2020 the Committee were invited to select 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 2022 Local Government elections.
- 1.4** Councillor A Barnaby (St Athan Community Council) is currently the representative appointed by the Community Liaison Committee in 2020 for a term of two years to sit on the Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee.

Strong Communities Fund Evaluation Panel

- 1.5** 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.
- 1.6** In January 2020 the Committee were invited to select 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 2022 Local Government elections.
- 1.7** Ms. E. Forbes (Clerk to Barry Town Council) and Councillor R. Thomas (Llandow Community Council) were appointed as the Community Liaison Committee representatives from a Town Council and a Community Council respectively to be a member of the Strong Communities Fund Evaluation Panel up to the 2022 Local Government elections.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

Public Services Board (PSB)

- 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 fire and rescue authority for the area, and Natural Resources 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, for example through regular PSB and Town and Community Council Exchange meetings which all Town and Community Councils are invited to it still welcomes a representative participating in the PSB which meets during the working day for a minimum of five times a year.

Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee

- 2.8** 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 2020 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.

Strong Communities Fund Evaluation Panel

- 2.9** 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; and
 - 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.
- Open up Section 106 funding to specific communities where developments have taken place. Funding for facilities and open space projects in specific areas will be announced when each round is opened for applications.
 - Encourage projects that include innovative ways of addressing climate change.

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

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

2.11 The evaluation of bids to the fund is undertaken in line with a series of weighted criteria, which includes:

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

2.12 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; and
- One representative from a member organisation of the Public Services Board.

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

3.1 The Public Services Board (PSB) has a responsibility to embed the five ways of working in all its activities. The invitation for a Town and Community Council to participate in the PSB will in particular support greater involvement and opportunities for collaboration and the integration of different workstreams.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1 The Public Services Board has agreed a Climate Emergency Charter and an Asset Management and Climate Change group has been established to enable partners to work together and share learning and best practice. Climate change and the environment were also significant themes in the recently published Well-being Assessment and will be key elements of the new PSB Well-being Plan to be published in May 2023.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1 None as a result of this report.

Employment

- 5.2 None as a result of this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.3 None as a result of this report.

6. Background Papers

[Last Nomination of Representatives Report received by the Committee: 28th January 2020](#)

[Statutory Guidance for the Wellbeing of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015 SPSF3 - Collective Role \(Public Services Boards\)](#)

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

[Vale of Glamorgan Council Constitution: Section 14:16: Responsibilities for Council Functions: Committees Terms of Reference - Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee, section \(t\).](#)

[Strong Communities Grant Fund Establishment Report \(Cabinet, 3rd April, 2017\)](#)