

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council

4th April 2018

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Digital Officer K. Jones

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Neath Port Talbot Public Services Board – Well-being Plan 2018-2023 - The Neath Port Talbot We Want

Purpose of Report

1. To present the Neath Port Talbot Public Services Board's Well-being Plan 2018-2023 for approval by Council.

Executive Summary

2. Section 36 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places a duty on public services boards to:

“improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of its area by contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals (S36(1)).
3. A public services board's contribution to the achievement of the goals must include (S36(2)):
 - a) assessing the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in its area
 - b) setting objectives that are designed to maximise its contribution within its area to achieving those goals, and
 - c) the taking of all reasonable steps by members of the board (in exercising their functions) to meet those objectives
4. In 2017, the Neath Port Talbot Public Services Board published its Well-being Assessment, discharging a) above. Since then, the Board has been developing its Well-being Plan (which contains the

Board's well-being objectives). As required in the Act, the Board sought the advice of the Future Generations Commissioner when developing its Plan and subsequently initiated public consultation on a draft Plan in autumn 2017. The Council's Policy and Resources Committee determine to exercise the powers vested in it by Council to scrutinise the work of the Board to inform a formal response to the Board during the public consultation period. A copy of the Committee's response which was sent to the Board is attached for Members' reference.

5. At its meeting in March 2018, the Board approved a final version of the Plan to be submitted to the parent bodies of the statutory partners within the Board – ie the Council, Natural Resources Wales, the AMBU Health Board and the Mid and West Wales Fire Authority. Approval of the Plan is vested in the four organisations referenced, not the Board itself. To date, the Fire Authority and Natural Resources Wales have approved the Plan. The ABMU Health Board is due to consider the Plan on 29th March 2018. All four partners must approve the Plan for it to be agreed. Subject to the Plan being agreed, the Public Services Board is responsible for publishing the Plan.

Background

Legal Requirements – Local Well-being Plans

6. Section 39 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 sets out requirements for well-being plans to be prepared and published by public services boards. S39(1) states:

“a public services board must prepare and publish a plan (a “local well-being plan”) setting out its local objectives and the steps it proposes to take to meet them”

7. S39(5) states:

“A local well-being plan must include a statement -

- a) explaining why the board considers that meeting the local objectives will contribute within the area to achieving the well-being goals;

- b) explaining how the objectives and any proposed steps have been set with regard to any matters mentioned in the most recent assessment of well-being;
 - c) specifying the periods of time within which the board expects to meet the objectives;
 - d) explaining how any proposed steps are to be taken in accordance with the sustainable development principle”.
8. S39(6) requires public services boards to publish their first local well-being plan no later than one year after the date on which the next ordinary election under S26 of the Local Government Act 1972 (c.70) following commencement of the section is held. Subsequently, S7 requires each board to publish a local well-being plan no later than one year after the date on which each subsequent ordinary election under that section is held.

Preparation of the Plan

9. In May 2017, the Neath Port Talbot Public Services Board published its assessment of the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in Neath Port Talbot. The assessment was informed by extensive engagement and survey work with residents and stakeholders, and consideration of relevant information such as existing data, evidence and research. The published assessment captures the strengths and assets of people and communities across Neath Port Talbot and describes the challenges and opportunities Neath Port Talbot faces now and into the future.
10. The Well-being Assessment identified 75 issues for the Public Services Board to consider when developing its well-being objectives for inclusion in its Well-being Plan. At a workshop in June 2017, the Board undertook a series of prioritisation exercises which drew out key themes which the Board then applied a set of tests to identify which of the issues would benefit from the collective action of Board members. The exercise identified six different opportunities for members of the Board to collaborate and where it was considered there was an opportunity to have a positive impact on the state of well-being in Neath Port Talbot. These opportunities were developed by lead officers (members of the Board) into the following well-being objectives along with the identification of steps to deliver them:

- i. Supporting children in their early years, especially children at risk of adverse childhood experiences;
- ii. Creating safe, confident and resilient communities focusing on vulnerable people;
- iii. Encouraging ageing well;
- iv. Promoting well-being through work and in the workplace;
- v. Valuing our green infrastructure and the contribution it makes to our well-being; and
- vi. Tackling digital exclusion

11. As required by the Act (S42), the Public Services Board sought the advice of the Future Generations Commissioner on how steps could be taken to meet the above well-being objectives and received a comprehensive advice letter from the Future Generations Commissioner detailing how the Public Services Board might effectively use the five ways of working (sustainable development principle) to challenge business as usual and maximise the contribution it makes to the seven national well-being goals. A number of changes were made to the Plan as a result of the Commissioner's advice. The Board will return to the advice as the Plan is implemented to ensure it is responding to the new duties imposed by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
12. The Council's Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee has been identified by Council as the Committee that will exercise the powers to scrutinise the work of the Board set out in S35 of the Act.
13. In addition to those powers, the Committee is also listed as a statutory consultee under s43 of the Act. On the 9th January 2018, the Scrutiny Committee arranged for the draft Well-being Plan to be considered at all-Member Seminar. Members concluded that they needed further information in order that an informed response could be constructed. Consequently, using the powers vested in the Committee, lead officers were invited to attend the Committee to provide: more information on the activities included in the draft Plan; what difference the proposed activities would make; and what commitment the Board were asking Council to make to take the proposed Plan forward. The Committee's conclusions which were set out in the formal response to the Board's consultation is attached at Appendix 3.

Monitoring and Review

14. The Plan will be implemented through a set of programmes, overseen by the Public Services Board and supported by the development of a fit for purpose performance management framework. Scrutiny of the Public Services Board's work will also be undertaken by the Council's designated overview and scrutiny committee (Policy & Resources) who will hold the Board to account for delivery of the Plan.

Consultation

15. To meet statutory requirements contained within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Neath Port Talbot Public Services Board (at its meeting on the 21st September 2017), initiated a 12 week statutory consultation period on the draft Well-being Plan (9th November 2017 to the 1st February 2018). There is no requirement for the Council to carry out public consultation on the Plan.

Financial Appraisal

16. In giving evidence to the Scrutiny Committee, Board members confirmed that no new financial resources were being sought to implement the Plan. However, the Committee noted that in order to progress the work, it was likely that the Board would seek to influence the way in which existing resources are allocated and has made clear that the Council expects to be fully consulted on any proposals to reallocate Council resources prior to dependent actions being agreed.

Integrated Impact Assessment

17. An Integrated Impact Assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016).
18. An overview of the Integrated Impact Assessment has been included in this report below in summary form only. It is essential that Members read the Integrated Impact Assessment, which is attached to the report at Appendix 2, for the purposes of the meeting.
19. Summary - The Public Services Board acknowledges the short-medium term focus of the steps that have been identified initially to meet the objectives and more detail of the work to be taken forwards over the short, medium and long term will be published in the Board's first annual report. Based on information contained within the Plan the Board's intention to maximise its contribution to achieving each of the Board's well-being objectives, the Welsh Government's well-being goals and meet the other statutory duties referenced in the Integrated Impact Assessment are set out. In reviewing progress it will be important that there is an ongoing assessment of the extent to which the Board's intentions are being realised.

Workforce Impact

20. The six areas for initial focus will have implications for the workforces of all of the organisations who participate in the Board's work. The objectives to intervene earlier in the lives of children at risk of having an adverse childhood experience; the work to develop safer, more resilient communities; and proposals to support our ageing population all seek to adopt preventative measures or to intervene at different points in people's lives. To achieve this, there will need to be a cultural shift in the way public service organisations work with people and communities more broadly. The work to improve well-being through the workplace has the potential to add value to the Council's workforce development activities through the sharing of

best practice across sector and by developing additional, evidence-based approaches to improving well-being and employee engagement. The work on digital inclusion is already referenced within the Council's Digital by Choice Strategy. A more co-ordinated and coherent approach across partners to tackling digital exclusion may identify approaches to upskilling the workforce that could benefit the Council's work on this topic. Finally, the work on the green infrastructure, amongst other things, seeks to improve participation in open space and in developing greater understanding of the importance of protecting the environment across the community at large as well as within the workplace.

Legal Powers and Duties

21. This report sets out how the duties set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 placed upon the Neath Port Talbot Public Services Board and the Council (as one of the statutory partners) in respect of improving local well-being have been discharged. The particular duties have been referenced in the body of this report.

Crime and Disorder Impact

22. The Council has a legal duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to carry out all its various functions with "due regard to the need to prevent Crime and Disorder in its area". The objective to develop safer, more resilient communities directly assists in discharging this duty.

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

23. The Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2016 places a new general duty on local authorities to have regard (along with all other relevant matters) to the need to remove or minimise any factors which increase the risk of violence against women and girls or, exacerbate the impact of such violence on victims.
24. Domestic abuse has been shown through research to be one of the factors that can create an adverse impact on the lives of children, especially in the first 1,000 days from conception. Consequently the

objective to intervene earlier in the lives of such families directly supports the Council's duties in this area. Additionally, work to develop safer, more resilient communities and the work to support our ageing population will help to discharge duties under this legislation.

Risk Management

25. Failure to approve and publish the local well-being Plan could potentially lead to the Future Generations Commissioner exercising her powers to conduct a review into the extent to which the Board (where the Leader and Chief Executive are members) are meeting duties under the Act which could lead to action also by Welsh ministers. This could impact on the Council reputationally and also lead to additional resources being required to meet the duties.
26. There is a risk of the work of the Board impacting on the Council's resources, disrupting delivery of the Council's own Corporate Plan. This has been mitigated by ensuring there is good alignment between the priorities proposed by the Board and the Council's own priorities. Scrutiny members were satisfied that the six priorities for action were relevant and aligned with the Council's own priorities. However, the Committee has highlighted the potential for the work proposed by the Board to impact on the allocation of existing resources and has made clear that the Council must be consulted prior to any such changes being introduced by the Board.

Recommendation

27. Having had regard to the Integrated Impact Assessment provided with this report, Council is asked to approve the Neath Port Talbot Public Services Board Well-being Plan 2018-2023 – "The Neath Port Talbot We Want", subject to the Council being further consulted when the resource implications of the proposed activities is clearer.

Reason for Proposed Decision

28. To meet legal duties set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 placed on the Public Services Board itself but also the duty placed upon the Council to approve the Plan together with the other three statutory partners named in the Act.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - The Neath Port Talbot Public Services Board Well-being Plan 2018-2023 - The Neath Port Talbot We Want

Appendix 2 - Integrated Impact Assessment

Appendix 3 - Response from the Council's Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee

Background Papers

- Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Shared Purpose: Shared Future, Statutory Guidance on the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, SPSF:1, SPSF2; SPSF3
- The Neath Port Talbot Public Services Board Well-being Assessment
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council - Corporate Plan 2018-2022

Officer Reporting:

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