

# NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Council

26<sup>th</sup> April 2023

### Report of the Head of People and Organisational Development S. Rees

#### Matter for Decision

**Wards Affected:** All Wards

#### **Neath Port Talbot Public Services Board – Well-being Plan 2023-2028**

#### Purpose of Report

1. To present the Neath Port Talbot Public Services Board's Well-being Plan 2023-2028 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 2022, 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 December 2022. The Council's Cabinet Scrutiny Committee exercised the powers vested in it by Council to scrutinise the work of the Board during the public consultation period. The draft Plan was presented to the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee in March 2023 and comments have been taken into account and incorporated into the final Plan.

5. At its meeting in March 2023, 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 Swansea Bay University Health Board and the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service. Approval of the Plan is vested in the four organisations referenced, not the Board itself. The Swansea Bay University Health Board, Natural Resources Wales and the Fire and Rescue Service have approved the Plan. 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 no later than 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

## **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 2022, the Neath Port Talbot Public Services Board published its second 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 assessment took into account the findings of the ‘Let’s Talk campaign that the Council ran during the summer of 2021. It was agreed that due to the open-ended nature of the questions posed the Let’s Talk findings would be suitable to inform the NPT Well-being Assessment. 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. Due to the joined up approach taken to the Well-being Assessment and also partner involvement in the development of the Council’s Corporate Plan, the Public Services Board have agreed to adopt the Council’s Well-being Objectives for the 2023-28 Plan. These are:
- All children get the best start in life
  - All communities are thriving and sustainable

- Our local environment, heritage and culture can be enjoyed by future generations
- Jobs and Skills – local people are skilled and can access high quality, green jobs

11. At a workshop in November 2022, the Board considered a series of proposed steps for inclusion in the Plan. These are the steps the Board will take to deliver against the chosen well-being objectives. The Board recognises that there is further work to be done around the detail of the workstreams going forward and plans are in place to develop this taking a partnership approach.
12. 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 duties contained within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
13. The Council's Cabinet 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.
14. In addition to those powers, the Committee is also listed as a statutory consultee under s43 of the Act. On the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023, the draft Well-being Plan was presented to Scrutiny Committee for their consideration and comment. All comments made by the Committee have been taken into account by the Board when developing the final Plan.

## **Monitoring and Review**

15. The Plan will be implemented through a set of programmes / workstreams, 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 (Cabinet Scrutiny) who will hold the Board to account for delivery of the Plan.

## **Consultation**

16. 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 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022), initiated a 12 week statutory consultation period on the draft Well-being Plan (22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022 – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023).

## **Financial Appraisal**

17. There are no additional resources allocated to the Public Services Board to help implement the Plan, consequently, partners will need to work together to identify how proposed actions can be moved forward.

## **Integrated Impact Assessment**

18. 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).
19. 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 3, for the purposes of the meeting.

20. 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**

21. The four areas for focus set out in the well-being objectives will have implications for the workforces of all of the organisations who participate in the Board's work. As the well-being objectives are the same as those featured in the Council's Corporate Plan the impact should be a positive one for council staff as there will be a collaborative approach to the issues identified which will maximise the impact we are able to make.

### **Legal Powers and Duties**

22. 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**

23. 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 thriving and sustainable communities directly assists in discharging this duty.

## **Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence**

24. 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.
25. 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 give every child the best start in life directly supports the Council's duties in this area. Additionally, work to develop thriving and sustainable communities will help to discharge duties under this legislation.

## **Risk Management**

26. Failure to approve and publish the local well-being Plan could potentially lead to the Future Generations Commissioner exercising his 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.

## **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 2023-2028.

## **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 2023-2028

Appendix 2 – The Neath Port Talbot Public Services Board Well-being Plan on a Page 2023-28

Appendix 3 - Integrated Impact Assessment

## **Background Papers**

- [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#)
- Shared Purpose: Shared Future, Statutory Guidance on the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, [SPSF1](#), [SPSF2](#), [SPSF3](#)
- [The Neath Port Talbot Well-being Assessment 2022](#)
- [Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Corporate Plan 2022-27](#)

## **Officer Reporting:**

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