

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: **THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

SUBJECT: **PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 13TH FEBRUARY, 2017**

REPORT OF: **BUSINESS SUPPORT OFFICER
DEMOCRATIC & CORPORATE SUPPORT**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR M. CROSS (CHAIR)

Councillors P. Baldwin
M.B. Dally
N. Daniels
K. Hayden
M. Holland
C. Meredith
D. Owens
B. Pagett
B. Scully
B. Sutton
B. Willis
Mrs L. Winnett

WITH: Temporary Lead Corporate Director /Head of Paid Service
Head of Policy & Performance - Advisor
Policy, Partnerships & Engagement Manager
Scrutiny Officer

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
No. 1	<u>APOLOGIES</u> Apologies for absence were received from:- Councillors K. Chaplin, G. Collier, and John Morgan.	

<p>No. 2</p>	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.</p> <p>Councillor B. Scully left the meeting at this juncture.</p>	
<p>No. 3</p>	<p><u>PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the Terms of Reference of the Blaenau Gwent Public Services Board.</p> <p>The Temporary Lead Corporate Director/Head of Paid Service spoke to the report and outlined the background and content contained therein.</p> <p><u>Chair of the Public Services Board</u></p> <p>It was noted that the Leader of the Council had recently delegated responsibility to the Deputy Leader of the Council to chair meetings of the Public Services Board.</p> <p><u>Terms of Reference</u></p> <p>In response to a Member's question regarding the Terms of Reference, the Lead Corporate Director commented that the key role for scrutiny was to provide challenge and support to the Public Services Board's well-being objectives and review how these objectives would be achieved. He advised that the dates included in the Terms of Reference were at a point in time and had since been reviewed.</p> <p><u>Well-being Assessment</u></p> <p>It was noted that the well-being assessment was currently being undertaken. Subsequently, the well-being objectives would be established and a well-being plan formulated stipulating how these objectives could be achieved in due course.</p> <p><u>Grant Funding</u></p> <p>In reply to a question regarding the resourcing of the well-being objectives the Head of Policy & Performance</p>	

advised that previously grant funding had been accessed on a regional basis. However, once the well-being objectives had been agreed and a well-being plan established the Public Services Board would undertake work to determine how it would resource delivery of the functions it had to undertake and the outcomes it had to deliver.

The Lead Corporate Director clarified that the Council would provide administrative support to the Board and it would be for future scrutiny committees to make reports or recommendations to the Board regarding its functions or governance arrangements, the Welsh Government would not provide funding.

Role of Scrutiny

In reply to a Member's question, the Temporary Lead Corporate Director/Head of Paid Service advised that the role of scrutiny would be to hold the Public Service Board to account as the Council was one of the statutory partners on the Public Services Board. It was noted that an annual report would be presented to Scrutiny which would set out the Board's progress in meeting the well-being objectives.

The Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 sets out the requirements of what the Council both currently and in the future can do and this would provide an opportunity to maximise contributions from all partners to meet local objectives and support the Public Services Board's contribution to the national well-being goals.

Local Authority Membership on the Board

Another Member commented that the Public Services Board was a new entity and would evolve over time and enquired as to the number of officers and officer time involved in the work of the Public Services Board.

The Lead Corporate Director informed Members that the Leader/Deputy Leader of the Council and the Lead Corporate Director/Head of Paid Service as statutory members would provide support to the Board and there was an expectation on officers to deliver on well-being

objectives but would only be required to attend Board meetings when specific well-being objectives were being discussed.

The Member asked for clarification on the Local Authority's contribution with regard to the number of officers who attended Board meetings, the Head of Policy & Performance clarified that she attended PSB meetings in a support capacity. The Policy, Partnerships & Engagement Manager and the Partnerships Team Leader also support the PSB and strategic partnership function. Other officers would be invited to attend as and when required to discuss specific issues under consideration.

Invited Participants

For clarification, the Temporary Lead Corporate Director/Head of Paid Service advised that the National Statutory Guidance set out by Government recommended that statutory participants must be invited to participate in the activity of the Board and the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner had been included as an "invited participant".

Appendix 1 – Contribution to the Well-being goals

A Member referred to the Appendix in particular the contribution to the well-being goals and pointed out that the narrative contained in the column "How would your project / activity deliver benefits to our communities" was identical throughout.

The Head of Policy and Performance advised that as the Well-being objectives and plan had not yet been established it would have been premature at this stage to provide further detail. However, once the plan has been established further information could be provided on each of these individual goals. The Terms of Reference state that the PSB has a statutory duty to deliver against the national Well-being goals.

Feedback on the Well-being Assessment

In response to a Member's question regarding feedback from the Well-being Assessment, the Lead Corporate

	<p>Director commented that a collaborative approach had been undertaken with partners and an engagement plan had been developed to involve people in the preparation of the well-being assessment and feedback would be collated and submitted back to the PSB Scrutiny Committee in due course.</p> <p>RESOLVED to recommend, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and the Terms of Reference be accepted.</p>	
<p>No. 4</p>	<p><u>PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD SCRUTINY COMMITTEE INTERIM TERMS OF REFERENCE</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee interim Terms of Reference.</p> <p>The Temporary Lead Corporate Director/Head of Paid Service informed Members that the interim Terms of Reference would be in place until the Council elections in May 2017.</p> <p>It was noted that the meeting date of 14th March, 2014 should be amended to read 14th March, 2017.</p> <p>RESOLVED to recommend that the report be accepted and that the Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee interim Terms of Reference be agreed.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED that the next meeting of the Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee would be 2.00p.m. on the 14th March, 2017.</p>	
<p>No. 5</p>	<p><u>STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL WELL-BEING</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Temporary Lead Corporate Director / Head of Paid Service, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.</p> <p>The Temporary Lead Corporate Director/Head of Paid Service spoke to the report and outlined the background and content contained therein.</p>	

It was noted that there would be a 4 week statutory consultation on the draft assessment of local well-being.

A Member raised concerns that this could lead to more devolved powers and further separation from the UK. The Temporary Lead Corporate Director/Head of Paid Service commented that consultation on the draft assessment of the well-being goals presented an opportunity for the Local Authority to make a real difference to improve the well-being of the people of Blaenau Gwent. Whilst this would present a challenge Members would have a key role to play to ensure that the objectives were delivered.

Upon a vote being taken it was,

RESOLVED to recommend that the report be accepted; and that

- Option 1 be accepted, namely:- a PSB Scrutiny facilitated consultation session in order to receive a presentation on the findings of the draft well-being assessment be held;
- the session would give Members of the Committee the opportunity to provide collective feedback as a Committee on the draft assessment;
- following the session feedback would be collated and submitted back to the PSB Scrutiny Committee for final sign off in March 2017;
- Members of the PSB Scrutiny Committee also have the opportunity to provide individual feedback on the draft well-being assessment as part of the formal consultation process.