

<u>BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL</u>	
Report to	Members of the Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee
Report Subject	Consultation Response to PSB on the Draft Assessment of Local Well-Being
Report Author	Andrew Parker, Policy, Partnerships and Engagement Manager/Bernadette Elias, Policy and Performance Head of Service
Report date	23 February 2017
Directorate	Public Services Board (PSB)
Executive Portfolio	Leader / Executive Business Manager
Date of meeting	Tuesday 14 March 2017
Date signed off by Monitoring Officer	N/A
Date signed off by Section 151 Officer	N/A
Date signed off by Chair	
Key words	Public Services Board, Statutory Consultee, Well-being Assessment.

Report Information Summary

1.	Purpose of Report						
1.1	The purpose of this report is to outline the PSB Scrutiny Committee's proposed response to the Blaenau Gwent Public Service Board as a statutory consultee on the draft assessment of local well-being.						
2.	Scope of the Report						
2.1	This report relates to the statutory requirements for the PSB to consult with the PSB Scrutiny Committee on their draft assessment of local well-being for Blaenau Gwent.						
3.	Contribution to the National Well-Being Goals – Detail attached as Appendix 1						
4.	Recommendation(s) / Endorsement by other groups, e.g. CMT/Committees/Other groups						
4.1	The proposed response was produced following the Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee Statutory Scrutiny Consultation Session on Thursday 23 February 2017.						
4.2	The Statutory Scrutiny Consultation Session recommended that all members of the Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee receive a copy of the Welsh Government Statutory Guidance SPSF 3: Collective role (public services boards).						
5.	Recommendation/s for Consideration						
5.1	To consider the proposed response (Appendix A) and agree an option to agree or amend the proposed response to submit to the Blaenau Gwent Public Service Board as part of the formal consultation process on the draft assessment of local well-being.						
Why this topic is a priority for the Council?							
Single Integrated Plan	Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP)	(PMIF)	Operating Model	Transforming Blaenau Gwent)	Relevant legislation	Other (please state)	
X					Future Generations Act		
Reporting Pathway							
Directorate Management Team (DMT)	Corporate Management Team (CMT)	Audit	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny	Executive	Council	Other (please state)
2/2/17				13/2/17 23/2/17 - consultation session 14/3/17			PSB

Main Report

1.	Background and Context
1.1	All PSBs in Wales have a statutory requirement to prepare and publish an assessment of the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in its area.
1.2	The draft well-being assessment for Blaenau Gwent is a comprehensive document which looks to satisfy the requirements set out in the statutory guidance <i>Shared Purpose: Shared Future 3 - Collective role (public services boards)</i> .
1.3	The PSB Scrutiny Committee on Monday 13 February 2017 agreed to hold a PSB Scrutiny facilitated consultation session in order to receive a presentation on the findings of the draft well-being assessment.
1.4	The session gave members the opportunity to provide collective feedback as a committee on the draft assessment, with feedback to be collated and presented to the PSB Scrutiny Committee for final sign off on 14 March 2017.
1.5	<p>The consultation session was held on 23 February 2017. Members of the committee were provided a presentation covering:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Context - <i>outlining the requirements and providing high-level information outlined from the statutory guidance on collective duties for PSB.</i> 2. Getting People Involved – <i>An overview of the ‘Blaenau Gwent We Want’ engagement programme and its findings.</i> 3. Draft Assessment – <i>A summary of the overall findings of the draft assessment which was put out for formal consultation by the Public Services Board in February 2017.</i> 4. Responding to the PSB – <i>A short section summarising the session and considering the collective response.</i>
1.6	Members were specifically asked to consider the process of developing the draft assessment and the content of the summary information presented, with a focus on responding to the PSB as part of the formal consultation process.
2.	Performance Evidence and Information
2.1	The expectation is that an assessment will use a broad range of evidence sources to help assess the state of well-being, for example, census and statistical data; academic research; and evidence which captures people’s opinions and perceptions (the story behind the data).

2.2	All PSB Scrutiny Committee elected members were invited to the session which was held on Thursday 23 February 2017.
3.	Risk Implications
3.1	Failure to carry out a statutory consultation on the draft local well-being assessment would lead to the PSB not complying with the collective duties set out in the well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
4.	Financial Implications
4.1	There are no direct financial implications relating the statutory consultation response.
5.	Staffing/Workforce Development Implications
5.1	The draft assessment has been developed collaboratively with representatives from PSB partners. Furthermore, regional collaborative work on drafting the assessment was carried out via the Gwent Strategic Well-being Assessment Group.
6.	Options for Consideration
6.1	Option 1 (preferred option) - Members agree the proposed response drafted from PSB Scrutiny facilitated consultation session as the consultation response to the Blaenau Gwent Public Services Board on the draft well-being assessment (Appendix A).
6.2	Options 2 - Members provide further comments and agree to amend the proposed response drafted from PSB Scrutiny facilitated consultation session as the consultation response to the Blaenau Gwent Public Services Board on the draft well-being assessment (Appendix A).
7.	Impact Assessment Against Proposals / Options
7.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thinking for the long term <p>The draft well-being assessment outlines future trends information and feedback from public engagement on what people consider would make the area a better place for the future.</p>
7.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking an integrated approach <p>The draft well-being assessment follows an approach of considering the evidence gathered under the broad heading linked to sustainable development pillars i.e. economic, social, cultural and environment issues.</p>
7.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking a preventative approach <p>The draft well-being assessment focuses on a situational analysis which will support the PSB to prioritise which issues it</p>

	will focus on as part of its Well-being Plan. Following the prioritisation further work will be considered to understand the appropriate approaches to tackling the issues identified.
7.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborating <p>The draft well-being assessment has been developed using a collaborative approach with involvement from a variety of partner organisations.</p>
7.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement <p>The Blaenau Gwent We Want engagement programme has been fundamental in the development of the draft well-being assessment, with feedback being incorporated into the document.</p>
7.6	<p>Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)</p> <p>Equality and Human Rights are specifically identified as key consideration in the statutory guidance <i>Shared Purpose: Shared Future 3 - Collective role (public services boards)</i>. As a consequence, the draft assessment contains relevant statistical information taking into consideration the protected characteristics. Furthermore, The Blaenau Gwent We Want engagement programme has specifically considered engagement with those from protected characteristics, as well as identifying further opportunities to engage more effectively in the well-being process in the future.</p>
8.	Conclusion
8.1	Consultation of the draft assessment of well-being for an area is a fundamental process to ensure that consideration is given to the findings of this important document.
8.2	As a statutory consultee of the draft assessment the Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee the proposed response drafted following the PSB Scrutiny Session on 23 February 2017 will ensure that the committee has taken the opportunity to comment on the draft assessment to ensure that the document is appropriate for the PSB to consider to help set appropriate priorities for the future of the area.

Assess how well your project / activity will result in multiple benefits for our communities and contribute to the national well-being goals.		
Description of the Well-being goals	How will your project / activity deliver benefits to our communities under the national well-being goals?	Is there anyway to maximise the benefits or minimise any negative impacts to our communities (and the contribution to the national well-being goals)?
<p>A prosperous Wales An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	<p>The Well-being Assessment is a fundamental process for the PSB and contains key information on the economy of Blaenau Gwent.</p>	N/A
<p>A resilient Wales A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).</p>	<p>The Well-being Assessment is a fundamental process for the PSB and contains key information on the environment of Blaenau Gwent.</p>	N/A
<p>A healthier Wales A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</p>	<p>The Well-being Assessment is a fundamental process for the PSB and contains key information on the health of the populatin in Blaenau Gwent.</p>	N/A

Description of the Well-being goals	How will your project / activity deliver benefits to our communities under the national well-being goals?	Is there anyway to maximise the benefits or minimise any negative impacts to our communities (and the contribution to the national well-being goals)?
<p>A more equal Wales A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).</p>	<p>The Well-being Assessment is a fundamental process for the PSB and contains key information on the social factors of people in Blaenau Gwent.</p> <p>Furthermore, the process is subject to consideration relating to the Equality and Human Rights which is specifically identified as key consideration in the statutory guidance Shared Purpose: Shared Future 3 - Collective role (public services boards).</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.</p>	<p>The Well-being Assessment is a fundamental process for the PSB and contains key information on the community safety and cohesion issues in Blaenau Gwent.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.</p>	<p>The Well-being Assessment is a fundamental process for the PSB and contains key information on the areas culture, heritage and Welsh language usage.</p> <p>There has been limited feedback from participants through the medium of Welsh for the first two phases of the engagement processes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>A globally responsible Wales A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.</p>	<p>The Well-being Assessment is a fundamental process for the PSB and outlines some key findings relating to how Blaenau Gwent is globally responsible.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Appendix A

Proposed Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee statutory consultation response on Blaenau Gwent's Public Services Board draft Well-being Assessment.

Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee welcomes the opportunity to comment on Blaenau Gwent's Public Services Board draft Well-being Assessment as part of the statutory consultation process set out within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

The collective response has been drafted following a Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee Statutory Consultation session held on Thursday 23rd February 2017 which gave members the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Well-being Assessment summary information.

During the session, members' responses were framed around the following two areas of focus:-

- **Process** – The process undertaken by the Public Services Board to develop the draft assessment;
- **Content** – The content of the summary information presented.

Furthermore, the session identified number general statements that related to the well-being planning process.

Process of Developing the Assessment

Overall, the process undertaken by the PSB to develop the draft well-being assessment was effective and takes into account the consideration of Welsh Government's statutory guidance '*Shared Purpose: Shared Delivery – Collective Role (public services boards)*' (SPSF 3).

Involvement

PSB can consider further strengthening of the process in relation to 'involvement', one of the five ways of working which public services boards are required to take account of when applying the sustainable development principle. The PSB should consider how it can further promote the Blaenau Gwent We Want Engagement

programme via appropriate mechanisms, to ensure that opportunities to involve a diversity of the population is maximised.

Specific emphasis should be placed on elected members playing an active role in supporting and championing the engagement programme within their local communities.

Content of the Assessment

Overall, the content within the draft Well-being Assessment for Blaenau Gwent is comprehensive and provides an appropriate analysis of the state of well-being for the area.

Geographies - The assessment identifies communities which are relevant to the local area, with the 'neighbourhood areas' comprising of existing electoral wards. Furthermore, where appropriate data is presented to lower geographic levels which 'nest' within the existing geographical boundaries.

Building on this existing practice, analysing data at a low geographical level should be continued to ensure that 'pockets' within our neighbourhood areas are effectively identified for appropriate targeted interventions.

Consideration should be given to how well-being objectives will be set i.e. would they be applied across the whole of Blaenau Gwent, or would there be specific well-being objectives targeted to focus on small areas where there are greater needs as identified via the well-being assessment and further analysis.

General Comments relating to Well-being Planning

As well as the specific comments relating to the assessment noted above, the following general statements were made.

Aligning well-being planning with existing strategies and programmes – It will be important that the developing Blaenau Gwent well-being plan is effectively aligned to existing national, regional and local strategies and programmes. This will ensure that opportunities to increase the well-being of the local area is maximised. Specifically noted was the City Deal: Cardiff Capital Region. Also, noted were opportunities highlighted in regeneration and land use plans (LDP) already agreed for the Blaenau Gwent area.

Evaluating existing programmes and interventions – Further work is required to assess the effectiveness of existing programmes currently operating in the area and what contribution they make towards achieving well-being. Specifically noted were

the national government anti-poverty programmes such as Flying Start, and also the financial investment via European funding.

Resourcing a 'realistic' effective well-being plan – It was noted that with no additional resource to fund commitment outlined in a well-being plan it will be important to ensure that the objectives that are set are realistic and do not overly raise expectations. The setting of the well-being objectives will need to be clear with realistic actions and monitored effectively to ensure progress is being made.

This will be particularly pertinent due to the uncertainty surrounding 'Brexit', given that a significant number of projects and programmes being delivered within Blaenau Gwent are currently in receipt of European funding streams.

Supporting an 'Asset' based approach – There was general support for taking an asset based approach, whereby the well-being planning process will look to identify and promote what is already good about the area, and what can be done to make it better.

Thinking to the long-term – Consideration could be given to using geographical future scenario sessions to help understand what local areas will be like in the future.

Utilising evidence to set objectives – It was noted as important that when the PSB sets the well-being objectives for the local area that it uses a balanced quantitative evidence from statistics and research, and qualitative evidence from involvement and engagement of the local community.