

Committee: **Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee**
Date of meeting: **13th December 2021**
Report Subject: **Blaenau Gwent Public Services Board Annual Progress Report 2020/21**
Portfolio Holder: **Councillor David Davies, Chair of PSB**
Report Submitted by: **Andrew Parker, Service Manager Policy & Partnerships**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
	X	02.12.21			13.12.21			PSB SSG

1. **Purpose of the Report**
To present the third annual progress report on 'The Blaenau Gwent We Want' Well-being Plan.
2. **Scope and Background**
 - 2.1 The Blaenau Gwent Public Services Board (PSB) was set up under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 as a way for public bodies to work together to take a long-term joined-up approach to improving economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being.
 - 2.2 The Act requires that the PSB sets out how they will do this through a Well-being Plan. This plan must follow the sustainable development principles; to act in a manner that seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
 - 2.3 The PSB agreed its first Well-being Plan, 'The Blaenau Gwent We Want' to cover the period 2018 to 2023, in May 2018. Each year subsequently the PSB is required to report on the steps they have taken to meet the objectives set out in the Well-being Plan through a progress report.
 - 2.4 The 2020/21 Annual Progress Report was published in September 2021. The report details progress made in the third year from April 2020 to March 2021 (see Appendix), which covers a period where public service delivery and local well-being programmes were significantly affected by the Covid19 pandemic.
 - 2.5 During the pandemic the PSB continued to meet and to work together including reflecting as a Board on the impact of the Covid-19 on our communities and the focus of the PSBs work programme.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

Option 1 That the PSB Scrutiny Committee notes the progress made in the third year of delivery against the Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan and provides comments.

Option 2 That the PSB Scrutiny Committee considers the progress made in the second year of delivery against the Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan and makes specific recommendations to the Local Well-being Partnership for consideration.

4. **Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

This report is in-line with the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and the requirement to prepare and publish an annual report following each full year of activity.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

5.1 ***Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)***

There are no direct financial implications relating to the Annual Report, other than any associated revenue and translation costs for the Partnerships Team in coordinating the report being put together. The intention set out in the Well-being Plan is to be funded from existing budgets of partner organisations.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

This Annual Report has been produced and published under the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 taking in consideration the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the local communities and the programme itself. This published document is part of an on-going approach to improve well-being in Blaenau Gwent.

5.3 ***Legal***

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 gives local government scrutiny the predominant role in securing improvement and accountability of the PSB. The committee must send a copy of any report or recommendations it makes to the Welsh Ministers, the Well-being of Future Generations Commissioner and the Auditor General for Wales.

5.4 ***Human Resources***

The Governance and Partnership Division of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council leads on supporting the PSB on delivering their collective duties under the Act, and provides the administrative support to the PSB for the production of the Annual Progress Report. Other partners support the process by providing key information on the PSBs work programme for the relevant time period.

6. Supporting Evidence

6.1 **Performance Information and Data**

The PSB Annual Report 2020/21 is provided as an Appendix. The report presents the progress made in the second year of the PSBs programme for delivery against the Well-Being Plan under five key sections.

6.1.1 During the third year the Blaenau Gwent Public Services Board continued its focus on making progress towards achieving the following well-being objectives:

- Best Start in Life for Everyone (Page 11)
- Safe and Friendly Communities (Page 14)
- To Look After and Protect our Environment (Page 21)
- To Forge New Pathways to Prosperity (Page 27)
- To Encourage and Enable People to make Healthy Lifestyle Choices (Page 34)

6.1.2 Many of the existing programmes initiated in the PSB's current strategic work programme continue to be appropriate, if anything even more so, to mitigate the long-term effects of the pandemic. The PSB continued to focus on:

- Early Years Integration Transformation (Page 11)
- Community Safety (page 15)
- Age-Friendly Communities (Page 17)
- Climate Change Mitigation (Page 21)
- Foundational Economy (Page 28)
- Sustainable Food (Page 35)
- Integrated Well-being Network (Page 40)

6.1.3 The report also includes some additional work and case studies of local initiatives that help support progress towards meeting the well-being objectives, highlighting some of the good work being carried out that will help to make a difference towards progress. Some examples being:

- Communities for Work (Page 29)
- Disability Employment Support (Page 32)
- Local Food Insecurity Provision (Page 38)
- Well-being Friends (Page 42)
- Participatory Budgeting (Page 46)
- Gwent Travel Charter (Page 48)

6.1.4 Furthermore, there are Covid-19 related case studies:

- Locality Response Teams (Page 57)
- Tredegar Community Taskforce (Page 59)
- Telephone Befriending Support (Page 60)
- Community Impact Assessment (Page 63)

6.2 **Expected outcome for the public**

The public will benefit from the delivery of the Well-being projects outlined in the Annual Report.

6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***

The Well-being Objectives in the Well-being Plan were identified through 'The Blaenau Gwent We Want, 2018-23' engagement programme. Our plan was the result of a comprehensive programme of involvement and collaborative work to develop a coherent plan for delivering well-being. Key examples of engagement and involvement activities held throughout 2020/21 are provided throughout the annual report. Due to COVID19, most of the public engagement was paused with many activities now only being to take place virtually.

6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***

In this rapidly changing context the PSB shares the view of the vital role it will need to collectively play in achieving well-being outcomes for our local area. The PSB is taking a proactive approach in looking ahead towards recovery, reconstruction and beyond.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

The preventative focus of the Well-being Plan is reflected in all projects across the PSB strategic work programme. For example, the Sustainable Food Partnership Programme takes a long-term, preventative approach towards tackling food insecurity that takes into account the social, environmental, cultural, and economic aspects of food and supports the positive aspects of food as well as addressing the needs and challenges to prevent further issues with food poverty and hunger in local communities.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

The PSB encourages collaboration through partnership working to achieve progress across the strategic work programme. For example, the introduction of the Climate Mitigation Steering Group as a multi-agency collaborative to develop an area-based mitigation plan to keep territorial emissions (all emissions produced within Blaenau Gwent) within a science based carbon budget calculated on the basis of Blaenau Gwent's fair contribution to international climate reduction targets.

Furthermore, the five local authority areas in Gwent continue to collaborate through the Gwent Strategic Well-being Action Group (GSWAG) and the new regional Gwent PSB to work collaboratively on regional projects.

6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***

The Well-being Plan is a key component in establishing and encouraging integration between public bodies, this includes the connection between the existing well-being programme and supporting our communities to recover from the Covid19 pandemic.

6.8 ***EqIA(screening and identifying if full impact assessment is needed)***

EQIAs are and will be carried out as required for individual projects as part of the PSB's strategic work programme.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

The PSB Scrutiny Committee is a statutory recipient under of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 of the Annual Report and has the primary responsibility for providing democratic support and challenge to secure continuous improvement to the work of the PSB through scrutiny.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- APPENDIX 1: 'The Blaenau Gwent We Want' - Three Years of Progress 2020/21 Annual Progress Report: https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/fileadmin/documents/Council/Partnerships/PSB_Annual_Report_20-21_eng_version_FINAL.pdf