

Committee: **PSB Scrutiny Committee**
Date of meeting: **28th January 2022**
Report Subject: **Gwent Regional Well-being Assessment**
Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Nigel Daniels**
Report Submitted by: **Andrew Parker, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive	Council	Other (please state)
	06.01.22	18.01.22			28.01.22			Gwent PSB & BG LWP

1. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to present the consultation draft of the regional Gwent Well-Being Assessment in line with statutory timelines, and to outline the consultation process and next steps for the draft Assessment of Local Well-Being for Gwent.

2. Scope and Background

2.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 sets out a requirement for each Public Services Board (PSB) to prepare and publish an assessment of the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in its area no later than a year before it publishes its local well-being plan. This means that the first Gwent Well-Being Assessment must be published in May 2022.

2.2 The Gwent PSB was established on 1 October 2021. The task of developing the Well-being Assessment was assigned to the PSB GSWAG (Gwent Strategic Well-being Action Group) officer sub-group and the draft Assessment was reviewed and agreed by the Gwent PSB in their December 2021 meeting to enable the consultation process to begin.

2.3 The first cycle of Well-being Plans set out how the former PSBs are collectively continuing to respond to some of the key issues identified when they assessed local well-being in 2017. This Well-being Assessment is an opportunity to determine if existing well-being objectives are still the right ones, if more needs to be done in some areas and less in others, and how regional partners can best work together through the new Gwent PSB in a way that positively builds on what has gone before.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

Option 1

That Members of the Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee consider and accept the report and appendices as provided prior to it being submitted to the Gwent Public Services Board.

Option 2

That Members of the Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee consider and provide specific comment on the draft Gwent Well-being Assessment for consideration by the Gwent Public Services Board before approval.

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.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

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

The regional grant funding allocation from Welsh Government supports the development of common data and systems for the Well-Being Assessment. Blaenau Gwent Council Policy Team is overseeing the application and implementation of the funding for 2021/22 on behalf of all regional partners, as well as supporting the development of the draft and final Assessment following the consultation process.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

Failure to produce a WBA and carry out a statutory consultation on the draft WBA would lead to the PSB not complying with the collective duties set out in the well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

5.3 ***Legal***

The programme has been developed in line with the 5 Ways of Working and other requirements stated in Well-being of Future Generations Act.

5.4 ***Human Resources***

The draft assessment is being developed collaboratively with representatives from all Gwent local authority areas being actively involved in both an analytical and public engagement perspective.

Progress against the overall plan is reported to the PSB via a PSB Strategic Support Group, which in turn is supported by the PSB Engagement Sub-Group.

The Council's Policy, Partnerships and Engagement Team is responsible for the operational delivery of the assessment and overseeing the implementation of the formal consultation for the assessment in Blaenau Gwent.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

The joint Well-being Assessment draws on the knowledge and experience each of the five PSBs gained when producing the last assessments in 2017.

6.1.1 Producing a joint assessment is different to producing one for each of the local authority areas. There are aspects that are best considered at a regional (Gwent) level, and others that are more local, affecting individual communities or areas. The assessment has been produced around the four well-being themes set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act: Social, Economic, Environmental and Cultural.

6.1.2 The Executive Summary, the full draft regional Well-being Assessment, and the draft local area assessments of well-being can be viewed in Appendix 1 here: gwentpsb.org/well-being-plan/well-being-assessment/

6.1.3 The Assessment brings together a range of information to help explain what Gwent and its communities look like and what is important in planning for the future. Data has been collected at both national and local levels; and engagement with people and communities living and working in an area.

6.1.4 The Assessment is the main 'umbrella' document for Gwent, with each authority area developing its own community area assessments to reflect local communities. These high-level community area assessments will form part of the wider Gwent Assessment document, but each authority area may also develop more detailed assessments for use by their local delivery partnerships building on any existing work. There will be 22 local area assessments across Gwent, including four in Blaenau Gwent (Sirhowy Valley, Ebbw Fawr Valley, Upper Ebbw Fach Valley & Lower Ebbw Fach). Further information is provided in Appendix 2.

6.1.5 Although agreed in principle, Regional Scrutiny arrangements are not yet established, as such the Assessment will be received by the local Scrutiny Committees in each local authority area.

6.1.6 In preparing its Local Well-being Assessment each Public Services Board is required to fully consult with a number of statutory consultees. Key dates include:

- 7th Dec 2021 – draft approved by Gwent PSB
- 13th Dec 2021 to 31st Jan 2022 – consultation, including with expert officers
- January/February 2022 – local Scrutiny committees
- April 2022 – Gwent PSB sign-off
- 5th May 2022 – publish (statutory deadline)

6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***

The well-being assessment process, supported by local engagement and involvement processes, are crucial in ensuring that an effective well-being plan is developed to improve local well-being for the area of Blaenau Gwent.

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

The Gwent Communications and Engagement PSB sub-group developed the engagement around questions previously discussed at G10 (the group in place before the PSB was established) with questions in English, Welsh and the most prevalent minority ethnic languages which were delivered in the local authority areas and with the assistance of communications/engagement officers in the health board, police and community voluntary organisations.

- 6.3.1 To enable consistency across the partners involved in the engagement process a common set of questions was developed by BGCBC on behalf of regional partners, building on the approach taken when undertaking the previous local assessment in 2017/18. This enabled consideration of whether Gwent communities' views had changed since the last well-being assessments. A stakeholder mapping exercise established the key groups and organisations who needed to be targeted and prevented duplication by the many partners involved in the group. The former PSBs in the region have a range of existing well-being objectives and it was important to understand whether these were still important to communities, as well as provide feedback on work that had happened to deliver the existing objectives.
- 6.3.2 The engagement process followed is included as Chapter 3 of the Assessment.
- 6.3.3 The timeline of establishing a regional PSB, the ongoing COVID pandemic and the new requirement to complete the first regional assessment and supporting engagement activity has presented a range of challenges. It is proposed that this Assessment is a starting point for the Gwent PSB, Well-Being Plan and supporting activities.
- 6.3.4 The consultation process will include expert officers, that is staff within member organisations with responsibility for services that deliver on, or who have knowledge of, economic, environmental, social and cultural factors. In effect to 'sense check' the headlines in the assessment and consider their views as it moves through to Response Analysis.
- 6.3.5 The draft is being shared with a range of consultees, the statutory requirements are:
- The Future Generations Commissioner;
 - The Board's invited participants;
 - its other partners;
 - such of the persons who received but did not accept an invitation from the board under Section 30 as the board considers appropriate;
 - the local authority's overview and scrutiny committee;
 - relevant voluntary organisations as the board considers appropriate;
 - representatives of persons resident in the area;

- representatives of persons carrying on business in the area;
- trade unions representing workers in the area;
- such persons with an interest in the maintenance and enhancement of natural resources in the board's area, as the board considers appropriate;
- any other persons who in the opinion of the board, are interested in the improvement of the area's economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being

Gwent PSB members to support the consultation process within their own organisations, and also at the local delivery groups.

6.3.6

To follow the statutory consultation requirements outlined in section 3.7, it is proposed that the following actions be taken locally in Blaenau Gwent:-

6.3.7

- Provide a link to the full document on the Gwent PSB website link on home page of the BGCBC website
- Share the document with BG LWP members asking them to consider the draft and provide any comments or feedback from their organisation's perspective (views also to be sought at the LWP meeting on 25th January 2022)
- Share the document with all BGCBC Members
- Share the document with our stakeholder engagement networks (e.g. Youth Forum, Citizen Panel, 50+ Forum members etc.) and GAVO requesting feedback from residents, community groups and 3rd Sector organisations
- Share the document with BGCBC staff for specific input on matters relating to their service areas
- Hold a PSB Scrutiny Committee meeting on 28th January 2022 for the document to be considered by scrutiny committee members

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

The Gwent WBA will outline future trends information and feedback from public engagement on what people consider would make the area a better place for the future.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

The WBA process will focus on a situational analysis which will support the Gwent PSB to prioritise which issues it 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 locally.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

The WBA will be developed using a collaborative approach with involvement from the five Gwent local authority areas as well as a variety of PSB partner organisations.

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

The WBA follows an approach of considering the evidence gathered under well-being and sustainable development pillars: economic, social, cultural and environment issues.

6.8 ***EqIA***

The engagement approach is built on the national principles for public engagement. There are number of established forums which support engagement covered by the protected characteristics.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

The Gwent PSB, BG Local Well-being Partnership and the PSB Scrutiny Committee monitor progress through its forward work programme performance management arrangements.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- **Appendix 1** – [Draft Gwent Well-being Assessment](#)
- **Appendix 2** – Gwent Well-being Assessment Overview