

Committee: **Partnerships Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: **28<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Report Subject: **Gwent Well-being Plan 2023-28**

Portfolio Holder: **Councillor Steve Thomas, Leader of the Council**

Report Submitted by: **David Arnold, Professional Lead for Strategic Partnerships & Sarah King, Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance & Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
14/03/23	23/03/23	20.03.23			28/03/23		30/03/23	Gwent PSB Scrutiny Committee 29/03/23

## 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the final regional Well-Being Plan for Gwent 2023-28 for consideration and comment, as part of the statutory consultation process. The Gwent Well-being Plan is attached at Appendix 1.

## 2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 The 5 PSBs in Gwent dissolved in September 2021, in favour of merging to form a regional Gwent PSB. This followed an Audit Wales report into the effectiveness of PSBs, which recommended (amongst other things) that PSBs develop flexible models of working such as merging. Merging was to provide a more simplified and streamlined model and closer alignment with other existing regional boards, such as the Regional Partnership Board and Safeguarding Board.
- 2.2 Local Delivery Groups of the Gwent PSB have existed within each local authority area in Gwent since the inception of the GPSB, to ensure the continued delivery of the 2018-23 Well-Being Plans, and to deliver locally against regional well-being objectives going forward. Blaenau Gwent's Local Delivery Group is known as the BG Local Well-being Partnership.
- 2.3 The Gwent PSB brings public bodies together to work to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Gwent. They are responsible, under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, for overseeing the development and delivery of a new regional Gwent Well-being Plan 2023-28, which is a long term vision for the well-being of the area. Further information on Gwent PSB's purpose, aim, role and responsibilities can be found in the [Terms of Reference](#).
- 2.4 The Gwent PSB undertook a regional Well-being assessment which reviewed the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing in Gwent. The assessment used a wide range of qualitative and quantitative information including data, academic research, evidence, and people's

views (engagement) to help understand Wellbeing in Gwent. The assessment took an asset-based approach, rather than focussing purely on need, to build upon and identify the strengths of both individuals and communities and it also identified problems and challenges that need to be addressed. The evidence and key issues identified in the assessment have been used to develop the Wellbeing Plan for Gwent.

- 2.5 The final Gwent Wellbeing Plan must be published within 12 months of an election and is subject to a range of formal consultation and approval processes. The Partnerships Scrutiny Committee was a formal statutory consultee under Section 43 of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and previously received the first draft of the Gwent Wellbeing plan for consideration and feedback on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022, during the statutory consultation period for the draft plan.
- 2.6 This Wellbeing Plan is the first wellbeing plan of the regional Public Services Board, and it aims to set out the wellbeing objectives of the Gwent PSB and the steps it intends to take to meet those objectives.
- 2.7 Following the statutory consultation period, the Well-being Plan has now set out two key objectives for the region, informed by the data, evidence, and feedback from a broad range of contributors and audiences. The feedback has been considered and has helped to shape the two main objectives and five steps in the final draft of the plan. Much of the feedback centred around the need for more integrated steps to work towards achieving both new regional well-being objectives, as well as calling for more focus on housing and action to help tackle the Cost of Living crisis across our communities.
- 2.8 The two main well-being objectives are:
  1. We want to create a fairer, more equitable and inclusive Gwent for all.
  2. We want to create a more climate-aware Gwent, where our environment is valued and protected, ensuring our well-being now and for future generations.
- 2.9 The five steps to achieve these two overarching objectives are:-
  - Take action to reduce the Cost of Living crisis in the longer term
  - Provide and enable the supply of good quality, affordable, appropriate homes
  - Take action to reduce our carbon emissions, help Gwent adapt to climate change, and protect and restore our natural environment
  - Take action to address inequalities, particularly in relation to health, through the framework of the Marmot principles
  - Enable and support resilient, connected, thriving and safe communities
- 2.10 The Gwent PSB will consider the final Gwent Well-being Plan in June 2023, after it has been considered by each of the 5 Gwent local authorities during February – April 2023. Blaenau Gwent full Council will be asked to consider and endorse the Gwent Well-being Plan at its meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

2.11 It is also worth noting that once the Gwent Wellbeing Plan has been agreed, a local well-being delivery plan for Blaenau Gwent will subsequently be developed by the Blaenau Gwent Local Well-being Partnership (Local Delivery Group of the Gwent PSB) to establish delivery of the regional priorities at a local level, and to also deliver on well-being priorities that are unique to communities across Blaenau Gwent.

### 3. Options for Recommendation

#### 3.1 **Option One**

The Partnerships scrutiny committee

- I. Considers and endorses the Gwent Well-being Plan 2023-28 as it is presented to them today

#### 3.2 **Option Two**

The Partnerships scrutiny Committee

- I. Considers the Gwent Well-being Plan 2023-28;
- II. Provides additional comments and feedback for consideration by full Council in March 2023; and

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

The final Gwent Well-being Plan will apply to all LA areas across Gwent, including Blaenau Gwent, with opportunities for the Gwent PSB Local Delivery Groups to deliver against local priorities through their own local actions plans going forward. The Blaenau Gwent Council Corporate Plan 2022-26 makes a commitment to contribute towards the regional well-being objectives and the eight Marmot principles.

### 5. **Implications Against Each Option**

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

The Wellbeing Plan sets a strategic direction for the Gwent PSB. Specific projects to help achieve the wellbeing objectives will be developed once the plan is agreed. Where additional funding will be required, costed recommendations will be made to the appropriate decision maker.

#### 5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

Failure to develop a well-being plan would lead to the Gwent PSB members not complying with the collective duties set out in the well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

#### 5.3 ***Legal***

Failure to develop a well-being plan would lead to the Gwent PSB members not complying with the collective duties set out in the well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

#### 5.4 ***Human Resources***

The Policy and Performance Team supports the work of the PSB and BG Local Well-being Partnership and leads on supporting them on delivering their collective duties under the Act. The plan has been developed collaboratively with representatives from Gwent LAs and PSB partners.

Regional collaborative work on drafting the plan was carried out via the Gwent Strategic Well-being Action Group (GSWAG).

## 6. **Supporting Evidence**

### 6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

As the steps in the Gwent Well-being Plan suggest, the Gwent PSB is continuing to work with Professor Michael Marmot and the Institute of Health Equity, based at the University College London, as part of the Gwent Marmot pilot region. This work will be embedded through activity and delivery of the plan, which will be aimed at reducing inequality and inequity between populations guided by the eight Marmot principles which encompass the determinants of wellbeing:

- Give every child the best start in life
- Enable all children, young people, and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
- Create fair employment and good work for all
- Ensure a healthy standard of living for all
- Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities
- Strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention
- Tackle racism, discrimination, and their outcomes
- Pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together

There are also four overarching principles for delivering against the plan as a partnership during 2023-28:-

- Effectively working together
- Communication and engagement
- Welsh language and culture
- Performance management

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

To ensure that the move to a regional PSB did not detrimentally impact on the local nature of well-being delivery that has been built up since the inception of the Act, the decision was made by the Gwent PSB to have the regional Plan underpinned by Local Delivery Groups (LDG) for each of the 5 Gwent Regions. The LDG for Blaenau Gwent is the BG Local Well-being Partnership.

It is expected each LDG will develop Local Action Plans to serve two purposes – to identify specific actions which will contribute at a local level to the achievement of the Regional Well-being Objectives and Steps; and to identify priorities and actions which are applicable to our communities in Blaenau Gwent. This will ensure the regional Well-being Plan is delivered in line with the local needs of Blaenau Gwent residents.

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

The Partnerships Scrutiny Committee was a statutory consultee of the draft regional Well-being Plan for Gwent during the 12-week statutory consultation period for draft Wellbeing Plans. This ran from 1st October – 31st December 2022.

The consultation period included feedback from PSB partners, stakeholder organisations, and residents. The Cost of Living crisis and housing were seen as the most important aspects of well-being, especially by communities, throughout the consultation process.

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

The Well-being Plan takes consideration of the data and future trend information including the Gwent well-being assessment and public engagement on what people consider would make the area a better place for the future and have most positive impact on their well-being.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

The Plan focuses on Prevention as one of the five ways of working, and outlines a series of Steps for taking preventative action to help achieve the each of the well-being objectives.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

The Well-being Plan has been developed using a collaborative approach with involvement from the 5 LAs and a variety of stakeholders and partner organisations across Gwent.

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

The Well-being Plan follows an integrative approach that considers each of the five ways of working (including integration), and notes opportunities for integration between the well-being objectives and with the Marmot principles. Council services and public service partners

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

Equality and Human Rights are specifically identified as key consideration in the statutory guidance Shared Purpose: Shared Future 3 - Collective role (public services boards). As a consequence, the process of developing the Plan has taken into consideration the equality requirements through the development of the supporting Gwent Well-being Assessment and statutory consultation.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

The Local Delivery Groups, through their local delivery plans, will ensure that any local issues and concerns are addressed and align to the Gwent Well-being Objectives. They will also extend membership of working groups to relevant local organisations. Any specific arrangements can be scrutinised at a local level by the appropriate local authority scrutiny committee.

**Background Documents /Electronic Links**

- *Appendix 1: [Gwent Well-being Plan 2023-28](#)*