

Ask **Scrutiny**

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Councillor Majid Rahman,
Chairperson of the Performance Scrutiny
Committee - Partnerships

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Summary

This is a letter from the **Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships** to the **Public Services Board** following the meeting of the Committee held on 10 January 2018 with regard to:

- The Consultation Draft Well-being Plan 2018 - 23

Dear Chair of the Public Services Board,

Response to Statutory Consultation upon the Draft Well-being Plan 2018-23

I am writing to submit the statutory consultation response of the Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships upon the Consultation Draft Well-being Plan to the Public Service Board.

This Committee established in May 2017 has within its terms of reference the statutory duty placed on the Council through the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2014 in relation to Scrutiny of the PSB and in particular the statutory requirement for the PSB to consult with overview and scrutiny committees (in addition to other named consultees) regarding the preparation of its local Well-being Plan.

At the meeting of the Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships held on 10 January 2018 the Committee received the Consultation Draft Well-being Plan 2018 - 23 and Officers, the Chair and Representatives of the Well-being Plan Sub-Group presented an overview of the draft Plan and received and answered the Committee's questions. The full summary of discussion can be found in the **attached** minute of the meeting and is submitted formally as the Consultation response of the Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships ahead of the closing date of the formal consultation.

If you have any query regarding the content of the letter please contact:
scrutiny@newport.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

**Councillor Majid Rahman,
Chair of Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships.**

**Extract of the Minutes of Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships
held on 10 January 2018 at 5pm**

Consultation Draft Well-being Plan 2018 - 23

Invitees:

- Rhys Cornwall - Head of People and Business Change;
- Tracy McKim - Partnership Policy and Involvement Officer;
- Emma Wakeham - Senior Policy and Partnership Officer;
- Andy Robinson - Natural Resources Wales;
- Jeff Scrivens - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

The Head of People and Business Change provided the Committee with an overview of the consultation process for the Draft Well-being Plan. It was advised that delivery and development of the Well-being Plan is a statutory duty and has to be produced and reviewed after 12 months. Following the consultation process, the final draft would be approved and adopted in May 2018. It was explained that the plan was developed following the Wellbeing assessment.

Members discussed sustainable travel including plug in points for electronic cars at Civic Offices and at other locations around Newport. The Committee were informed that this was currently being looked into.

Members welcomed the strategic plan for all partners, and queried how the plan would be measured on a year to year basis to see if it is working. Members were advised that the Performance Measurement Framework is to be developed and will be signed off by the Public Services Board. Members were also advised that as part of the consultation they asked which of the five interventions were the most important to the wellbeing of the city.

The Committee queried how the Well-being Plan would contribute to making a more Equal Wales. Members were advised actions in the plan would address aspects like inequality of health, preventable diseases and improving health across Wales.

The Committee raised the importance of visitors to Newport and the need to improve people's perceptions to encourage visitors to Newport. Members noted the need for a travel plan for sustainable travel, inter-city travel and the need to have the right prices and times convenient for people to use.

The Committee discussed references to the Welsh Language in the plan, and Members felt that the links between the objectives and Welsh language was not made clear within the plan. Members were also advised that the intention from the development of the plan had been to embed the Welsh Language within the document and thread it through every objective.

Members queried if the partners would be working with a baseline and asked why some measures are "number of" and some are "% of", why have both measures? Members were advised that there had been a lot of indicators available nationally and for Newport but they were annual, not quarterly. Consultees were being asked which to prioritise for the first year. They were also advised that the measures were taken from what is currently being measured.

Members asked on what the accountability arrangements were for the plan, and who the PSB were accountable to. Members were advised that the PSB was accountable to Welsh Government, and in Legislation and Guidance the Public Service Board must report to Scrutiny who had overview of the plan. Each of the statutory bodies would have accountability arrangements within their organisations and the success of the PSB would be embedded within each of these structures and it was not in any of the partners' individual or collective interest to fail.

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Members queried how the objective outcomes were to be measured. The Committee were advised that data was available for some of the objectives, but there would be some indicators that would need to be developed. Members asked if the data that was being used was from Census' data or has our own data been created. It was advised that work we need to start looking at how we are developing indicators. Work is taking place at national level but indicators specifically for Newport may be needed to be developed.

It was clarified that the Police were not a statutory partner but were statutory invitees; however there is a shared statutory responsibility in Community Safety which is part of the regional framework.

It was asked if there had been any discussions with members of the private sector and if so, how are they involved. It was advised that there has been involvement in the workshops with 15 organisations through Newport BID (Business Improvement District) and other partnerships, and are looking for wider involvement from the population.

Members queried if something drastically changes in Newport such as large businesses moving in, can the plan be revisited. Members were advised that the plan has to be reviewed every 5 years but it can be reviewed at any time, at the PSBs discretion.

Members discussed the number of replies in the previous consultation in the Newport Citizens Panel and the number of people expected to contribute to this consultation and noted that noting that the number seemed small compared to the population of Newport. It was clarified that feedback was really good at the wellbeing assessment stage, with more than 2000 replies including young people and schools, that fed into the draft Wellbeing Plan currently being consulted upon the consultation process was still underway.

The Chair commented on the amount of work required of the partners for the implementation of this plan, queried what would be the impact of this on resources and how the partners would work together and effectively pool resources. It was advised that these were some of the key challenges. Creating the community profiles had been a huge commitment for all partners, and had been the first risk. That had provided confidence that the commitment would continue. The next big challenge would be to bring all the information together and monitor it to ensure that it produces value for money and making sure everything is being done well.

Members raised a number of issues that could impact on the delivery of the Draft Well-being Plan including: the City Region Plan; electrification of the railway, Metro, M4 Relief Road etc. and queried why there were not included in the Plan. The Overview and Scrutiny officer advised that public transport was included in the Sustainable Travel Integrated Intervention, but also clarified that while the issues raised would impact upon Newport, they were not deliverable by the PSB partners and this draft plan was the PSB partners' strategic document for things identified they can work together to achieve, following engagement with public and consultation with businesses.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer reminded Members of the role of the Committee in considering this Draft Wellbeing Plan, which was to:

- ***Take a forward look at what the partnership plans focus on in the Draft Wellbeing Plan;***
- ***Assess:***
 - ***How local objectives have been identified and prioritised;***
 - ***How the partners have worked together to develop the plan;***
 - ***How the partners plan to work together to achieve the next steps;***
 - ***How the objectives of the individual partners have been reflected and integrated into the joint plan.***

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**Conclusions / Comments for Public Services Board on
Consultation Draft Well-Being Plan 2018-23**

The Committee agreed with the Draft Well-being Objectives and that they had open structure to sentences and clear to interpret, but they recognised that consultees could have different views.

The responses to Members' questions earlier in the meeting had demonstrated the integrated level of partnership working to date. There was a lot of positivity about the partners working together and the benefit of keeping lines of communication open and not having barriers. Clearly the partners had already developed a relationship and rapport and they had absolutely understood the priorities for the Newport and recognised that it wasn't only about health and social wellbeing, but a holistic approach. Members hoped that the shared resources of Partners would continue.

The Committee thought that it was unclear that Welsh Language was a theme running through all proposed integrated interventions and thought that this needed to be clear and strengthened in the Plan.

With regard to the steps for each of the integrated interventions, the steps are timed well but not yet measurable. The Plan is aspirational and long term enough but needs to be underpinned by measurability to ensure that the ambitions are translated into outcomes. There was also concern that some of the measures were a little subjective while others were potentially difficult to collect relevant data for, both of which could impact upon how the steps translated into action in Newport.

It was unclear how resources from Partners and the Private sector would be utilised and how skills in the economic sector would be driven up. An example was suggested that private sector involvement could help address the Recharging of electric vehicles action, as well as reaching out to the private sector to address other priorities.

It was suggested that Community Hubs be included in the Plan.