

Minutes



Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships

Date: 10 January 2018

Time: 5.00 pm

Present: Councillors M Rahman (Chair), D Davies, Y Forsey, S Marshall, T Suller and K Whitehead

In Attendance: Will Godfrey (Chief Executive), Keir Duffin (Community Development Manager), Rhys Cornwall (Head of People and Business Change), Tracy McKim (Partnership Policy & Involvement Manager), Emma Wakeham (Senior Policy & Partnership Officer) and Meryl Lawrence (Overview and Scrutiny Officer)

Will Beer (Public Health Wales), Chief Inspector David Morgan (Gwent Police), Andy Robinson (Natural Resources Wales), Jeff Scrivens (South Wales Fire and Rescue Service).

Apologies: Councillors R Hayat and M Linton

1 Declarations of Interest

None.

2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 November 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2017 were considered. Councillor Marshall advised that at the bottom of page 6, mention of court declaration costs had been omitted.

Agreed:

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2017 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting, subject to the above.

3 Single Integrated Plan (SIP) Performance Update Quarter 2

Invitees;

- Will Godfrey (Chief Executive for Newport Council)
- Keir Duffin (Head of Regeneration Housing & Investment (RH&I) for Newport Council)
- William Beer - Public Health Wales Lead Officer
- Chief Inspector David Morgan – Gwent Police

The Chief Executive introduced the Quarter 2 performance update for the Single Integrated Plan (SIP) to the Committee. It was explained that this was a transition period from the SIP that would be replaced by the Wellbeing Plan. It was noted that many of the underlying themes within the SIP priorities were evident in the emerging priorities within the draft Wellbeing Plan. The Committee was being presented with an update on the progress being made against the three themes.

Economy and Skills Theme:

The Head of Regeneration, Housing and Investment gave apologies for the Strategic Director - Place, and presented an overview of the progress being made within this theme.

Members discussed how the performance measures were set, and how it was ensured that the targets were set at an appropriate level to make them challenging.

The Committee enquired whether long term unemployed had been included in the performance dashboard, as well as the number of young people Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEETs), and outlined the importance of addressing the issue of long term employment as a priority.

Members were advised that those that had been close to employment and sustaining employment were now currently employed. Employment in Newport was at a 25 year high, and it was hoped that the Workplace Academy had played in a role in those figures. In addition, a programme was in place with the Department for Work and Pensions for those unemployed for 6 months or more, and its success in the Newport area was the second highest across the UK.

In-work poverty was discussed, and how the inability to afford rent payments and cost of living could affect mental health. Members queried as to how the partners engage with those at risk of in-work poverty, to assist them with managing finances. The Head of Regeneration Investment and Housing advised that there was a good working relationship with the Newport Credit Union in relation to this matter and that 7 barriers were being addressed as part of the partnership working, including housing, drugs & alcohol, mental health and financial concerns. It was explained that most clients usually had between 4 and 5 of the barriers, and so a programme was developed around their specific situation. The Health and Wellbeing Lead also advised of the links between other partners in addressing this problem, such as GPs who may be treating a patient for mental health issues, who may have underlying issues with debt management. The importance of a partnership approach to addressing this was stressed, as the issue was rarely down to a single contributory factor.

Health and Wellbeing Theme:

Shisha Update:

The Public Health Wales Officer updated the Committee upon information previously requested by the Committee regarding the use of Shisha. It was advised that current regulations would not prevent Shisha bars opening in Newport, but they had to demonstrate compliance with Smoke Free Environments Legislation and couldn't be housed in enclosed public buildings. Any Business wishing to set up a Shisha Bar needed to consider application to and compliance with: Planning Regulations; Building Regulations; Licensing Acts; Food Business Regulations and HM Revenue and Customs Plain Packaging and Tobacco Warning labels requirements. Due to the number of organisations that need to be contacted such as Planning, Building Control and Revenue and Customers it was not easy to open up a Shisha bar. Members were advised that if they had any concerns to contact Trading Standards, Planning and Environmental Health.

Performance Update:

The Health & Wellbeing Theme Lead Officer introduced the Performance Dashboard and presented an overview of performance to date.

Members queried the Physical Activity Plans and whether they would achieve the same participation rates as Scotland. It was also queried what the statutory responsibility was

within the Local Development Plan for the Council to have open space. The Lead Officer advised that one of the priorities within the draft Well-being plan was making Newport a much more active city and to improve walking and cycling in the city. Following engagement with schools Primary schools offer a “walking bus” to encourage walking a mile a day. Although problems with litter, lighting and damage to pavements could present a barrier to people utilising public spaces, a big part of the Well-being plan would be to make alternatives accessible. Members were also advised that an assessment for green space is done as part of the Local Plan.

Safe and Cohesive Theme:

The Chief Inspector gave a brief overview of the performance of the PSB in achieving the objectives within this theme. Specific mention was made to the ‘Mini Police’ initiative and the roll out of Scan Analyse Respond and Assess (SARA).

A Member referred to knife crime and the view that a cultural change was needed to influence positive change in this area. Members enquired as to whether in the Officer’s opinion this change was possible. The Chief Inspector agreed with this statement, however clarified that this would require effective work between the partners.

The success of the Pill Public Space Protection Order was mentioned and there had been evidence of a reduction of knife crime since the order was implemented. The partners indicated that the partnership approach to dealing with the issues in Pill would be used to develop approaches for similar issues within other areas of the city.

Comment was made about the difficulties young people with criminal records have finding work with the NHS. The Chief Inspector advised that restorative justice helped to provide learning for those looking to change their future.

Members praised the achievements and progress the Partnership was making towards this objective. The Chief Executive advised the Members that the Partnership would succeed or fail based on the individual members’ acceptance to share and achieve the collective outcomes. It was explained that the Partnership had achieved a better dialogue between the partners and greater understanding of how it could work together to achieve collective goals.

Members asked what barriers the Partnership faces in making further progress. Theme Leads responded:

- The inability of large organisations to think differently and embrace change to get the outcomes needed;
- Identifying the needs of the population and ensuring the PSB had the necessary resources to deliver on its objectives;
- The change in the skills and economic make-up of the city and importance of developing the longer term skills needed for the workforce.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer reminded Members of the role of the Committee in considering this Q2 update on the Single Integrated Plan, which was to:

- ***Take a backward look at how the partnership has performed in Q2 against the objectives in the SIP;***
- ***Assess:***
 - ***How well the PSB has delivered as a collaborative partnership on its objectives;***
 - ***How effectively the Partners on the PSB worked together to deliver the SIP;***
 - ***Mitigation actions put in place to address risks and not achieving objectives;***
 - ***How the public were engaged with on the SIP, and how feedback has been used.***

Conclusions

The Committee agreed that it was clear there was evidence of cross partnership working and keeping the lines of communication open between partners and any improvements were very positive for residents of Newport.

While the SIP Performance was being achieved in the main, there was however some concern about robustness of targets already being achieved by the end of Quarter 2.

The example of partnership work done in Pill was referred to a lot. Members would like to see some feedback / data upon outcomes from this joint working to identify issues and need for an area, what was done to provide solutions and whether it would be a sustainable process to use elsewhere.

4 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.

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.***

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

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.

5 Forward Work Programme Update

The Chair referred to the email circulated with the Pre-Meeting Agenda advising Members of the Committee that they could contact Scrutiny with any queries on Scrutiny Reports or any further information required before the meeting. Members were reminded of the importance of attending an All Member Seminar upon the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act Training sessions on either 6 or 7 February.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer presented the Forward Work Programme to the Committee in particular the items scheduled for the next two meetings. Members requested

that the Chair of the Association of Governors, Mr A Speight be invited to the meeting when the Committee considers the EAS Governor Support Report.

Members discussed training regarding: WG Guidance upon PSB Scrutiny, and; statutory Education Achievement Service (EAS) reports. The Senior Overview & Scrutiny Officer suggested that training be provided upon relevant sections of guidance or requirements applicable to PSB reports, to be scheduled prior to the Committee's consideration of the item and similarly for the relevant EAS reports.

Agreed:

The Committee endorsed the proposed scheduled for the next two Committee meetings, confirmed the topics to be considered and requested that the Chair of the Association of Governors, Mr A Speight be invited to the meeting when the Committee considered the EAS Governor Support Report.

6 Evaluation of Meeting

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer advised that this was a new item upon the Agenda, the purpose of which was to give the Members of the Committee the opportunity to feed back constructively about how they felt the meeting had gone, suggest improvements to the structure of reports, what worked and what could assist.

Members fed back that:

- Less time spent on Invitee presentation to maximise opportunity for questioning invitees would be preferable;
- Agreed that for this Committee all invitees for a report should come to the table together as cross cutting questions need answers from multiple invitees.

The meeting terminated at 8.50 pm