

Minutes



Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships

Date: 25 July 2018

Time: 5.00 pm

Present: Councillors M Rahman (Chair), D Davies, Y Forsey, R Hayat, S Marshall, R Mogford, M Spencer and T Suller

In Attendance: Rhys Cornwall (Head of People and Business Change), Will Godfrey (Chair of One Newport PSB Strategy and Performance Board), Will Beer (Health and Wellbeing Theme Lead), Supt. Ian Roberts (Safe and Cohesive Communities Theme Lead) and Daniel Cooke (Scrutiny Adviser).

Apologies: Councillors K Whitehead

1 **Declarations of Interest**

None.

2 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 June 2018**

The minutes of the Meeting held on 20 June 2018 were **approved** as an accurate record of the meeting.

3 **Public Services Board - Single Integrated Plan Annual Report 2017-18**

Attendees:

- Rhys Cornwall (**Head of People and Business Change**)
- Will Godfrey (**Chair of One Newport PSB Strategy and Performance Board**)
- Will Beer (**Health and Wellbeing Theme Lead**)
- Supt Ian Roberts (**Safe and Cohesive Theme Lead**)

The Single Integrated Plan Annual Report 2017-18 was presented to the Committee by the Head of People and Business Change as the final performance report upon the Single Integrated Plan. In future the Committee would receive performance reports upon the implementation of the newly adopted Well-being Plan 2018-2023.

The Head of People and Business Change introduced the Public Services Board Theme Leads in attendance to present their respective theme and respond to related questions from Members of the Committee and advised that the Chief Executive as Chair of One Newport PSB Strategy and Performance Board would act as Theme Lead for Economy and Skills for the meeting, as the Strategic Director – Place was unable to attend and sent her apologies.

Economy and Skills

The Chief Executive as Chair of the One Newport PSB Strategy and Performance Board introduced the Economy and Skills Theme and explained that the last 12 months had seen

the Partners shifting their focus to the Well-being Plan's actions and outcomes. He drew the Committee's attention to a number of areas that warranted highlighting:

- Newport had a growing economy and that this was still the case without high levels of high skilled employment in the city.
- Newport had the highest levels of young people who were not in education, training or employment (NEET) in Wales, but the Partnership had made good progress lowering this through tracking young people's destination after GCSE and A level. This was reflected in the overachievement of some of the targets.
- Newport had more tech companies than Cardiff and there was the opportunity to grow the industry around the Software Academy. The PSB was working to make Newport more attractive to tech companies. The main difference between Cardiff, Bristol and Newport was that Cardiff and Bristol's Economy were perceived to be more vibrant.
- Newport was only one of two Local Authorities that had an increase in people commuting in, in Newport's case it was an additional 15,000 a day. Cardiff being the other Local Authority.
- The report had stated that Newport had the highest level of vacant shop fronts in its city centre, higher than anywhere else in the Country. This did not paint a fair picture as Newport also had the one of the highest concentrations of shops in a city centre.
- There would be a wait for a decision on the M4 relief road until the new First Minister is in place. The road would not be a small undertaking with it possibly taking around five years to complete once started. The infrastructure project could have significant impact on traffic in the city.
- The Council was in discussions with the Welsh Government (WG) for funding to create a new footbridge over the railway line, improving accessibility to the city centre for more parts of the city.
- There had been increases in house prices in the city due to the planned removal of the tolls on the Severn Bridge. These increase in house prices had been the largest in the UK.
- The number of business moving into Newport was also increasing from the planned removal of the tolls, as well as Newport's office space (£15 sq. ft.) being significantly cheaper than Cardiff (£24 per sq. ft.) and Bristol (£30 per sq. ft.).

The Committee asked a number of questions and received the following responses from the Chief Executive:

- The Committee requested that the reports contained actual figures alongside percentages in the future, to enable greater insight into performance.
- The Committee congratulated the hard work of Officers at engaging with the hardest to reach individuals in Newport, which was reflected in the decrease in the number of NEET young people. Newport had moved from 22nd to 8th in the Local Authority standings. He advised that this was down to the coordination between partners and the inclusion of third sector organisations in partnerships. Estyn had reported that Newport should have been 17th, based on the number of Free School Meals.
- The drive to attract more technology based jobs in the city was not reflected by an increase in schools providing more technology courses to young people. The curriculum was set by WG, but there are examples of curriculum being devolved to a local level, like Manchester and Birmingham. The Leader of the Council was in talks with WG and local industry. This topic had received a lot of interest from the local higher and further education establishments.
- The footfall measurements included in the report were not accurate as it did not take into account Friars Walk and none of the events that Newport had through the year, such as the Food Festival, Marathon, Tour of Britain finish and the Velothon. The Chief Executive advised that Newport was establishing itself as an events venue and how the International Convention Centre could increase this further.

- The infrastructure in Newport was an issue for the Committee and how accessible the new Convention Centre and industrial areas were to visitors from the city centre. The Chief Executive informed the Committee that this was something that was being looked at and discussions with the Transport Minister were ongoing to look at this further. It would be ideal if there were four trains an hour between Bristol, Newport and Cardiff. Officers were also looking at how visitors moved between the train station and the Convention centre.
- WG were more receptive to ideas when there was a solid partnership between LAs and private businesses. The Council were engaging with private companies across Newport about numerous different ideas, but all were in their infancy, including a Newport Transport Strategy. These partnerships could influence future discussions with WG on funding for the infrastructure improvements in Newport.
- The Committee had concerns about the impact Universal Credit was having on the citizens of Newport and that more needed to be done to look at the support on offer.
- Newport was looking to develop relationships with different universities to provide diverse opportunities for young people in Newport. This was the Knowledge Quarter's main aim. Newport was also looking to bring further education establishments into city centre. A closer relationship between College Gwent, University of South Wales and the Local Authority is essential. The loss of the teacher training had been significant as it made up 30 per cent of the students.

The Chair thanked the Chief Executive for his attendance and responses.

Health and Wellbeing

The Theme Lead introduced the Health and Wellbeing Theme and highlighted a number of points from the report, including:

- The majority of the health indicators were in line with the WG standards and informed the Committee that there was a difference of 20 years healthy life expectancy across different areas of the city.
- The number of children who were obese was below the Welsh average but was still a cause for concern. Newport had started measuring children and a number of weight loss schemes in schools, but the take up had been very low due to the stigma attached to attending. Newport Live had had some success at engaging the young people in physical activities.
- Public Health Wales and its partners were working hard to de-normalise smoking and some partners had banned smoking from their grounds entirely. Only three out five secondary schools had taken up the smoking programme; JustB.
- Lots of work was being carried out across the city around mental health, but there needed to be more done to increase the mental wellbeing of all citizens.
- Newport city had a significant problem caused by alcohol and this was reflected in the partnership work surrounding the issues. The partnerships were delivering a number of programmes and projects that were having an impact. These included the Alcohol Care Team in Hospitals, In-Reach clinics at GP surgeries and a coordinated approach to licensing applications.

The Committee asked a number of questions and received the following responses from the Health and Wellbeing Theme Lead:

- The Daily Mile was established in some schools in Newport but not enough. The Healthy Schools Programme had not been taken up by some of the schools. The Theme Lead would provide the Committee with additional information so that it could be disseminated to Members who could use their roles as School Governors to advocate for participating in the Health projects.

- Active commuting was an area that the Partnership would be looking to develop. Other Local Authorities in particular Cardiff were implementing a number of actions to increase levels of active commuting. In Cardiff these included reducing the speed limit in the city centre to 20mph, investing in electric buses, increasing the number and quality of cycle lanes and pedestrianising more of the city centre.
- The Committee queried the targets and achievement figures related to breastfeeding in the report. The Theme Lead informed the Committee that these figures were just from the Partnership work completed and did not include Health Board only work.
- The Committee agreed that only three out of five secondary schools committed to smoking prevention was not enough and the Committee Members would again look to advocate for this in their position as School Governors. The Theme Lead agreed to provide additional information on this for Members.
- There were a number of ways the Partnership was supporting people in need of health and social care, especially those who had fallen at home. The Partners were delivering the Gwent Frailty Service, which could provide Frailty Consultants and Nurses, Occupational Therapy Fall Service and a number of specialist services providing equipment.
- Performance against the Blue Light Project was Amber as there had been no work completed in the predetermined timescale, but the Partners were confident that this would be achieved within the new timescale set out, and for this reason it was not Red.
- The Theme Lead discussed the option of including more activities in the Physical Activity section of the Health and Wellbeing Theme. The Committee felt that the inclusion of the two Park runs held in the city would provide valuable data for the Partnership. The Theme Lead would take this away to discuss with Partners and feedback any outcomes to the Committee at a later date.
- Schools were very good at delivering the healthy eating message to the young people, but young people were also bombarded with negative triggers and influences away from school. These included advertising, fast food outlets, takeaways and sugary foods. There had been a shift in culture over many years and we were creating an environment where obesity was becoming acceptable.
- In an aim to reduce the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) waiting times in Newport, referrals were being sent to a multi-agency forum which decides where the referral goes. This has increased the level of service and on nearly all indicators Newport had seen better performance than Torfaen.

The Chair thanked the Health and Wellbeing Theme Lead for his attendance and responses.

Safe and Cohesive Communities

The Theme Lead introduced the Safe and Cohesive Communities Theme to the Committee and advised that he had been in post since January and was astounded by the levels of Partnership working that being carried out and some of the successes which could be attributed. He presented an overview of the Theme and highlighted the following points:

- Hate Crime had increased in the city and there had been a rise from 200 to 280 reported incidences in the previous period. There had been an increase in racial and homophobic hate crime, but East Gwent Police had received praise from the Inspectorate for good practices in dealing with Hate Crime. Gwent Police had dedicated Hate Crime Officers and had delivered preventative training in schools, which looked at fostering mutual respect.
- Anti-social behaviour was an issue that affected all areas of Newport. The problem was perennial and different ways of combating this issue were being explored.
- Young people from the Youth Offending Service (YOS) had been involved in creating a video that was being shown in primary schools as a preventative tool.
- The Partners were looking at the key dates in the near future that had attracted large amounts of anti-social behaviour in the past. These dates were being targeted with

numerous diversionary campaigns, examples included: Operations Bang; Ash, and; Absorb.

- The staff of the Youth Offending Service (YOS) were fantastic and worked with young people as a person first, offender second. There was a cohort of young people who had been brought into organised crime from a young age, some as young as 12, and were extremely difficult to engage with. These young people were the focus of a new project with St Giles Trust where ex-offenders worked with the young people. The YOS had received £150,000 in funding from the Home Office and £300,000 more was made available to target those young people.
- The Theme Lead explained that there was a small group of people responsible for the increase in city centre public order crime, such as anti-social behaviour and work was being undertaken upon combatting the impact these people had on the city centre. The biggest crime in the city centre was shop lifting, with over 700 instances reported last year. The Police were working with businesses to tackle this issue. The action for dealing with shop lifters was primarily a fixed penalty notice. Any other action resulted in a Police Officer being removed from the streets to complete paperwork.

The Committee asked a number of questions and received the following responses from the Theme Lead for Safe and Cohesive Communities:

- The amount of different hate crime being reported to the Police, which was in part due to the work of the Hate Crime Forum, had provided a joined up approach to Partnership working which had developed best practice in this area.
- The large proportion of First Time Entrants (46%) were motoring offences which could not be diverted. How this was reported on was being reconsidered to provide a better picture in the future.
- It was questioned what was being done to address the use of Nitrous Oxide via the little silver canisters which were littering the streets in some places and was being purchased online. The Theme Lead would provide feedback to the Committee on the outcomes of discussion with Partners at a later date.
- The night time economy of Newport was very important, but it was an area that was the cause of a large number of problems for all of the Partners. The Theme Lead advised the Committee that a Strategy to which all of the Partners bought into, was needed.
- The Committee requested more information on the demographics of the young people who were First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice System. The Theme Lead would provide this information in the future.
- A small group of young people were a constant issue for the Police and large proportion of these young people were Looked After Children, who had been subjected to multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences, which had made them more susceptible to being criminally or sexually exploited. Different approaches were needed to address supporting these young people.
- The approach taken to combat serious organised crime was to target all levels from top to bottom. In the case of drug dealing in Newport, the street dealers were the first to be targeted and then the Police move up to more serious offences. This approach had led to successes for drug related offences.

The Chair thanked the Theme Lead for Safe and Cohesive Communities for his attendance and responses.

Conclusions:

1. The Committee **noted** the performance within the Single Integrated Plan Annual Report attached as Appendix 1 and highlighted the number of typographical errors.
2. The Committee **noted** the Minutes of the Public Services Board held on 12 June 2018, attached as Appendix 2, which included in Minute 6 - the PSB's consideration of the Single Integrated Plan Annual Report 2017-18 and its agreed actions.

3. The Committee **requested** the following additional information:

Skills and Economy Theme:

- Where Newport were placed on the LA standing for NEET young people;
- What effect the change from Communities First to Resilient Communities had had;
- Information on further education's role in the Knowledge Quarter;
- Demographical information on those young people that are known to the Youth Justice System as First Time Entrants.

Health & Wellbeing Theme:

- More information on Health based projects in schools for the Committee Members, for this to be disseminated all Members. This would be of specific relevance to those Members who had positions on school governor boards;
- An update on feedback following discussion with Partners upon the possible inclusion of the two Parkruns held in the city which could provide valuable additional data for the Partnership;
- Information on whether the Purple Flag scheme makes breastfeeding mothers feel more comfortable.

Safe and Cohesive Theme:

- An update on what is being done to combat the use of Nitrous Oxide which is being purchased online, following feedback on the outcomes of discussion with Partners;
- Additional information on the development of the Night Time Economy Strategy.

4 **Draft 2018-19 Annual Forward Work Programme**

The Scrutiny Adviser introduced the Draft 2018-19 Annual Forward Work Programme to the Committee and advised that it was best practice and a cornerstone of good scrutiny for Members of a Scrutiny Committee to have ownership of their forward work programme and to be involved in developing, reviewing and updating it. The Draft Annual Forward Work Programme had been produced following a review of the outcomes from the Committee's Work Programme the previous year.

The Adviser presented an overview of the suggested topics included in the draft Annual Work Programme for the Committee's consideration. Key work for the Committee included monitoring partnerships that had previously been considered by the Committee including Education Achievement Service, Violence Against Women Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Strategy, as well as emerging items such as Arrangements for the Scrutiny of the City Deal, plus previous outcomes recommended by the Committee and the statutory duty to scrutinise the Public Service Board's implementation of the Well-being Plan 2018-23.

The Committee had concern about meetings scheduled for the day after a Council meeting. A Member advised that the scheduling of this meeting the day after a meeting of Council which ran late into the previous evening had impacted upon the ability to completely digest the reports and devise questions and questioning strategies. Consequently, the Committee requested that the meetings scheduled for 27 February and 24 April be moved for this reason, if possible.

Actions:

1. The Committee **approved** the Annual Forward Work Programme, the start time for Committee meetings and the proposed schedule of meetings, subject to the movement of the meetings scheduled for 27 February and 24 April, if possible.
2. The Committee **requested** an update on the scheduling of the report upon the Arrangements for Scrutiny of the City Deal.

The meeting ended at 8.05 pm