

# Report

## Cabinet

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### Part 1

Date: 14 December 2022

**Subject** Consultation draft of Gwent Well-being Plan 2023-28

**Purpose** To update Cabinet on progress in developing the Gwent Well-being Plan 2023-28 and seek agreement on the consultation draft objectives and steps

**Author** Policy and Partnership Manager

**Ward** All wards

**Summary** In accordance with the Well-Being of Future Generations Act, the regional Gwent Public Services Board (PSB) has carried out a Regional Assessment of the Social, Economic, Environment and Cultural Well-being of Gwent. This was supported by the creation of Local Well-being Assessments for each of the five areas.

Following this, development of the Gwent Well-being Plan is on track and the Plan is currently out for public consultation. The Plan will be presented for approval and adoption by Council in February 2023 before final sign off by the Gwent PSB in mid-April.

Alongside this, One Newport is developing a Local Action Plan which will both support the achievement of the Regional Objectives and allow Newport partners to continue its focus on key areas of importance for Newport.

This report outlines the progress of the Gwent Well-Being Plan, describes the draft objectives, and provides a timeline for the consultation and approval.

**Proposal** Cabinet is requested:

- a) To review and accept the consultation draft of the Gwent Well-Being Plan or propose amendments
- b) To recommend the final version to Council on 28 February 2023 for approval and adoption

**Action by** Cabinet

**Timetable** Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Head of People, Policy and Transformation
- Head of Finance
- Head of Law and Regulation

**Signed**

## Background

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 came into force in April 2016 and is about improving the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales. It is designed to support and deliver a public service that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. As one of the 44 bodies named in the Act, the council must consider the Act in everything it does.

The Act mandated the creation of Public Service Boards (PSBs) for each Local Authority area in Wales. Each public services board must improve the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of its area by contributing to the achievement of the 7 National Well-being goals:

- 1) A prosperous Wales
- 2) A resilient Wales
- 3) A healthier Wales
- 4) A more equal Wales
- 5) A Wales of cohesive communities
- 6) A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language
- 7) A globally responsible Wales



The PSB achieves this through assessing the state of economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being in its area and setting objectives that are designed to maximise its contribution to achieving these goals. These objectives must be presented as part of a Well-being Plan which must be published within one year of Local Authority Elections being held. This means that a new Plan must be published by May 2023.

## Gwent PSB

In June 2021 Newport moved from a Newport PSB to a Gwent PSB alongside Caerphilly, Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent, and Monmouthshire. Discussions had been ongoing for several years about the advantages of taking a regional approach to the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act within Gwent. The One Newport Partnership (formerly the Newport PSB) continues its valuable work in supporting the delivery of the current Wellbeing plan and will retain responsibility from June 2023 for the achievement of the Local Action Plans detailed below.

## Well-being Assessment

The Gwent PSB carried out a Regional Assessment of the Social, Economic, Environment and Cultural Well-being of Gwent in late 2021/early 2022. This was supported by the creation of Local Well-being Assessments for each of the five areas. The Regional and Local Well-being Assessments were published in May 2022 and are linked to in the background papers section below.

## Well-being Plan

The Regional Well-being assessments led to the creation of potential focus areas for the Well-being objectives. These were initially assessed by members of the officer Gwent Strategic Well-being Assessment Group (GSWAG) which sits underneath the PSB and contains representatives of organisations that constitute the PSB. Following this assessment, the PSB identified 3 areas of focus for the Well-being Plan:

- Environment (Climate and Nature emergencies)
- Health and Well-being/Inequalities
- Community Cohesion (including Community Safety and Substance Misuse)

A detailed analysis of these 3 areas was carried out by suitable Partner organisations and this informed the development of draft Objectives and 'Steps' which provide the framework for how these objectives will be achieved:

- We want to create a fair and equitable Gwent for all
  - By reducing the gap in the number of years lived in good health between the most and least deprived communities in Gwent
  - By ensuring that our communities feel empowered, healthy, and safe.
  - By creating equitable opportunities in education and by reducing the gaps in achievement.
  - By reducing the impacts of child poverty.
  - By improving low and no carbon transport links that enable access to employment, education, culture, and leisure.
  - By supporting the creation of meaningful employment and training opportunities that enable everyone to receive fair pay for the work they do.
  - By working with housing providers and other stakeholders to ensure good quality, energy efficient and appropriate housing for all.
  
- We want to create a Gwent that has friendly, safe, and confident communities
  - By creating a safer Gwent by reducing antisocial behaviour, preventing crime as much as possible, improving road safety and enhancing our green spaces.
  - By ensuring that Gwent is a welcoming, diverse, and thriving place to live and visit by being inclusive and creating cultural opportunities for all.
  - By creating volunteering opportunities across the region which will empower residents to have control over their own communities.
  - By creating access to good quality, healthy and affordable food with secure supply chains and opportunities for local growth.
  - By reducing digital exclusion and embracing digital innovation.
  - By enabling access to valuable work for everyone by enhancing skills and education opportunities and taking advantage of emerging sectors.
  
- We want to create a Gwent where the natural environment is protected and enhanced to maximise the well-being benefits that nature provides to current and future generations.
  - By reducing the environmental impact of production and consumption.
  - By declaring a nature emergency in Gwent.
  - By responding to the climate emergency and protecting and preparing communities for the risk associated with climate change.
  - By exploring and promoting community energy projects.
  - By transforming food, transport, and energy in Gwent.
  - By recognising biodiversity as an asset, addressing the root causes of biodiversity loss and better managing the pressures on natural environments

These draft Objectives and Steps form the Draft Well-being Plan which is currently out for consultation and is linked to in the background papers section below.

Following this statutory 12-week consultation period the Plan will be amended and a final version will be presented to Council for approval and adoption off in February 2023. All other partner organisations will also need to sign off the Plan and final sign-off from the Gwent PSB is planned for mid-April 2023. The report will then be finalised and translated before publication in May 2023; with the new objectives coming into effect from June 2023.

## **Local Action Plans**

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 Action Plans for each of the 5 Gwent Regions. These Local Action Plans will 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 Newport which may be relevant at a regional level. Workshops involving Council Officers and representatives of Partner organisations within Newport are planned to develop a Draft Local Action Plan.

## Financial Summary

There are no costs to Newport associated with developing the Well-being Plan. All work is being carried out with existing resource and within core budgets.

## Risks

| <b>Risk Title / Description</b>   | <b>Risk Impact score of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)</b> | <b>Risk Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)</b> | <b>Risk Mitigation Action(s)</b><br>What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect?                              | <b>Risk Owner</b><br>Officer(s) responsible for dealing with the risk?      |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| Gwent Well-being Plan is not signed off by all Partners and the Gwent PSB in time for publication in May 2023 | M  | L   | The timeline for the development and sign off of the Regional Well-being Plan has been amended to allow the maximum possible time for Partner sign off | Officers within Caerphilly Borough Council who own the creation of the Plan |
| The needs of Newport are not taken into account in the Plan development.                                      | M  | L   | Officers across the region are working on the proposals, supported by the members of the OneNewport partnership.                                       | Policy and Partnership Manager  |

\* Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

## Links to Council Policies and Priorities

The development of the Gwent Well-Plan and associated Newport Local Action Plan will draw on a number of Council Policies, including (but not limited to) the Corporate Plan 2023-28 (which includes Newport Council's individual Well-being Objectives), the Climate Change Plan 2022-27, The Sustainable Travel Strategy and the Adopted Local Development Plan 2011-26.

## Options Available and considered

- 1) To note the progress made and accept the draft consultation Well-Being Plan as set out in this report, with recommendation for final approval and adoption by full council in February 2023.
- 2) To note the progress made as set out in this report and propose amendments.

## Recommendations.

### Preferred Option and Why

Option 1 is preferred, ensuring the needs of Newport residents, communities and businesses are represented and to meet statutory requirements for adoption and publication.

## Comments of Chief Financial Officer

There is no adverse budgetary impact linked to the development of the Gwent Wellbeing Plan, all work on the plan has been carried out using existing budgets. All actions identified in the plan will need to be met from core budgets or grant funding and will be monitored closely as part of well-established and ongoing budget monitoring arrangements with any potential future budget pressures being identified in the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

## **Comments of Monitoring Officer**

There are no specific legal issues arising from the Report, which simply updates Cabinet on the current position regarding the development of the Gwent Well-Being Plan. The final plan will need to be presented to full Council for approval and adoption in due course, following the end of the consultation period.

## **Comments of Head of People, Policy and Transformation**

From an HR perspective, there are no direct staffing implications to this report. The development of the regional wellbeing plan and local associated action plan has been informed by Gwent and Newport residents and will ensure a continued focus on improving the wellbeing of our residents and is required under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

## **Scrutiny Comments**

Partnership Scrutiny Committee has been consulted on progress regarding the Gwent PSB arrangements, and the development of the Gwent Well-Being Plan, at their meeting on the 30 November 2022. Feedback from scrutiny members will be included in the Newport City Council response and will support future reports to the Committee.

A copy of Scrutiny comments follows below -

The Committee wished to thank the Officers for their attendance and the detailed presentation, which provided a good understanding about how the Gwent Public Service Board will work. Members of the Committee explored the benefits of the partnership arrangement in terms of outcomes and sharing resources and best practice and sought clarification from Officers on the funding arrangements underpinning this and hopes that it will be fair and transparent. The Committee also asked if examples of sharing good practice could be provided in future to evidence this positive output of partnership working.

Whilst appreciating that the Wellbeing Plan has been created based on a Needs Assessment for Newport and the other areas, Members commented that Newport has different demographics and geography when compared with the other areas in the Board, and that Newport's requirements must be adequately and fairly represented. The Committee conveyed their expectation that the Council needs to maintain a local level of planning and scrutiny through governance arrangements.

In Objective 2 of the Plan, the Committee felt that more emphasis on tackling antisocial behaviour would be welcome, including how the Gwent Public Services Board will measure and monitor improvements and progress made.

In Objective 3, although the report references the impacts of a changing climate including more extreme weather events, the Committee felt that there should be more mention of flood risk and response to this kind of emergency event as this is an area which would particularly affect Newport and suggested an additional step of "Ensure that the lives of the people of the region are protected by physical measures taken to alleviate the threat of flooding and storm-induced land slips, because global warming continues to increase sea and ocean levels and increase flood-risk over large areas of the south of the region while severe weather events threaten coal-tip slippages and flash-flooding further north. Physical barriers to ensure the safety of the population of the region are an urgent necessity."

The Committee were pleased to hear about the level of consultation that the Partnership Team undertake with the residents of Newport. Members wished to promote consultation that is inclusive of all Newport residents. The report gave a questionnaire as an example of the consultation process, and Members prompted Officers to clarify the other channels through which views and feedback were sought. Members felt that some groups may be more difficult to engage and less likely to complete an online questionnaire. Members wished to emphasise the need for inclusive consultation that seeks to actively engage with residents who may be less heard in digital engagement.

The Committee noted the content of the survey and confirmed they were happy with the objectives and steps.

## **Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment:**

- **Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**
- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Socio-economic Duty**
- **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

This is an information-only report, so a full FEIA is not required. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is the focus of this report. All actions which are proposed to support the achievement of the Regional Well-being objectives will be assessed to make sure that they are in line with the Equality Act 2010 and the council's Socio-economic duty. All of the documentation relating to the development of the Plan (assessments, the Plan itself, consultation content) has been presented in Welsh as well as English.

## **Consultation**

As noted in the background section, consultation is currently taking place on the Gwent Well-being Plan with public sector organisations, the third sector and residents; and workshops with partners and public consultation are both planned to support the development of the Local Action Plans.

## **Background Papers**

[Consultation Draft Well-being Plan for Gwent 2023-28](#)  
[Regional and Local Wellbeing Assessments](#)  
[Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#)

**Dated: 6 December 2022**