

PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2018

- PRESENT:** Councillor Gwilym O Jones (Chair)
- Councillors Glyn Haynes, K P Hughes, Alun Roberts, Dafydd Roberts, Nicola Roberts and Robin Williams.
- Councillor Llinos M Huws – Leader of the Council
- Other Elected Members invited to attend the meeting in respect of Item 4**
- Councillors R Meirion Jones, Alun Mummery, Dylan Rees.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive,
Assistant Chief Executive (Partnerships, Community and Service Improvements),
Head of Housing Services (for item 5 only),
Service Manager - Housing Strategy, Commissioning & Policy (EL) (for item 5 only),
Scrutiny Manager (AD),
Scrutiny Officer (GR),
Committee Officer (MEH).
- APOLOGIES:** Councillors Vaughan Hughes, Robert Llewelyn Jones and Margaret Murley Roberts
- ALSO PRESENT:** None
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1 APOLOGIES

As noted above.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 February, 2018 were confirmed.

4 PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD - WELL-BEING PLAN (DRAFT)

Submitted – a report by the Leader of the Council in relation to the above.

The Scrutiny Officer outlined the role of this Scrutiny Committee as a statutory requirement within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 which states that the Public Services Board must consult with local authority's scrutiny committees (in addition to other named consultees) regarding the preparation of both their assessments of Local Well-being and their local Well-being Plans.

The Leader of the Council referred to the objectives within the Future Generations Act which also needs to link into the Authority's objectives in Corporate Plan and to make sure that it meets the needs and aspirations of the residents of the Island. She said that having considered the data received from the consultation process on the Well-being Plan the Public Services Board concluded that their key messages of the assessment were as follows :-

- The need to maintain a healthy community spirit
- The importance of protecting the natural environment
- Understanding the effect of demographic changes
- Protecting and promoting the Welsh language
- Promoting the use of natural resources to improve health and well-being in the long term
- Improving transport links to enable access to services and facilities
- The need for good quality jobs and affordable homes for local people
- The effect of poverty on well-being
- Ensuring an opportunity for every child to succeed

She further said that it is important that each partner organisation needs to be satisfied that their objectives and priorities are met and that the key messages of the assessment needs to be broad enough to address issues within the Well-being Plan.

The Chief Executive assured the Committee that the Authority has been fully involved in the preparation of the Well-being Plan and noted that the challenge is to ensure that partnership working between members of the Public Services Board has a greater impact than any partner organisation working on its own.

The Committee considered the report and raised the following matters :-

- Questions were raised as to whether there is a risk of the Public Services Board becoming a 'talking shop'. It was considered that the Board should be proactive and be able to demonstrate that the partner organisations are working together to meet the Plan's objectives. Members referred to the consultation process as regard to the Well-being Plan and noted that only 250 responders had been received. Questions were asked as to how the Public Services Board are intending to raise the perception of the Board to the residents of both authorities. The Leader of the Council responded that a number of statutory consultation workshops took place as regard to the Draft Well-being Plan together with consultation with community groups across the Island. She noted that a Sub-Group has been established which is Chaired by the Chief Officer from Medrwn Môn (a member of the Public Services Board) to evaluate as to

how the Board communicates with the residents and to afford information to services users and the Public Services Board.

- Clarification was sought as to how achievable the 9 key messages are identified within the Draft Well-being Plan. The Leader of the Council responded that the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is the key policy in identifying the objectives for a sustainable service for residents of Gwynedd and Anglesey in the future.
- Reference was made to the extreme flooding that occurred on the Island in November 2017 and the effect on individuals and businesses; questions were raised as to whether the Public Services Board has discussed this matter. The Leader of the Council responded that information has been shared with the experience of incidents that occurred in the Gwynedd area as regard to flooding and a presentation has been given to the Public Services Boards as regard to the negotiations that took place with Natural Resources Wales and the actions taken from such incidents.
- A member referred to an objective within the draft Well-being Plan as to 'improving transport links to enable access to services and facilities' and referred to the report which notes that the lack of access to services was one of the issues raised most frequently during the Well-being Assessment consultation and it is clear that this is a matter of concern and has a significant effect on the well-being of individuals. He questioned as to where the resources are to be sourced to address this matter and how the Public Service Board can influence enhance transport links. The Leader of the Council responded that she agreed that it will be a challenge to improve transport links due to local government resources been limited but she said that a specific plan for the region has been developed by the North Wales Ambition Board and the Public Services Board will put a formal structure in place in order to collaborate and influence the work of the Ambition Board. A further member said that he considered that the collaboration working between services within the Public Services Board will not attract further funding resources and expressed concern that the Board may become a 'talking shop'. The Chief Executive said that it is hoped that with collaboration of partner organisations on the Public Services Board may be able to influence each other to afford the required services and value for money for residents of both authorities
- A member referred to the second key messages referred to within the report as regard to 'Importance of Protecting the Natural Environment' which notes that our climate is changing and it will continue to do so causing the sea level to rise and more extreme weather events such as flooding. The Public Services Board has highlighted a priority area as regard to this matter and the member questioned as to the whether this Authority could identify a Members Champion as regard to Climate Change. The Leader of the Council said that she supported the suggestion and considered that a Members Champion for the Environment would be a better solution.
- Clarification was sought as to whether monitoring reports will be presented to the Scrutiny Committee. The Scrutiny Officer responded that the Committee's Work Programme will include monitoring reports on the Public Services Board and the associated Action Plan. The Scrutiny Manager said that it is important for this Scrutiny Committee to consider statutory guidelines/timetables within the Draft Well-being Plan so that it can be programmed into the Committee's Work Programme.

- Members considered that whilst accepting that a representative from Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd is already a member of the Public Services Board it was considered that a representative from a Housing Association that operates on Anglesey should also serve on the Board.

It was RESOLVED :-

- **To accept the Draft Ynys Môn and Gwynedd Well-being Plan;**
- **To authorise the Chair of this Committee to submit a formal response with the issues raised by this Committee, as noted above, to the Public Services Board by the end of the public consultation period.**

ACTION : As noted above.

5 LOCAL TENANTS PARTICIPATION STRATEGY 2018

Submitted – a report by the Head of Housing Services in relation to the above.

The Service Manager - Housing Strategy, Commissioning & Policy reported that the Local Tenants Participation Strategy (LTPS) is to ensure tenants understand that they are able to work with the Authority as landlord to share information and ideas to improve housing services. As a social landlord the Authority must have a LTPS in place to comply with the Welsh Government's National Tenant Participation Strategy 2017.

The Committee considered the report and raised the following matters :-

- Clarification was sought as to how the authority communicates with tenants and how they are able to seek responses from tenants who generally do not respond to such an exercise. The Service Manager – Housing Strategy, Commissioning & Policy responded that a questionnaire was sent to the Council's tenants together with a campaign through social media to encourage opinions and participation and to share views and ideas to improve the service. She also referred to 'Community Clean-up days' which is aimed at getting tenants to take pride in their local estates. A Môn Tenants and Officers Panel has been established which includes tenants and housing officers who meet on a quarterly basis to monitor the progress of the Local Tenants Participation Strategy. The Head of Housing Services stated that it is important for the Authority's tenants to be able to compare the services offered by this housing service with other authorities and Housing Associations, and that they were able to do this as one of the members attends the Welsh Tenants Federation events.
- Clarification was sought as to whether the voice of tenants in smaller communities are being able to contribute within the Tenants Participation Strategy. The Head of Housing Services responded that there are tenants who attend the Môn Tenants and Officer Panel from rural communities.
- A member raised that a representative of a Housing Association should be in attendance as regard to the Tenants Participation Strategy. The Service Manager – Housing Strategy, Commissioning & Policy responded that an

invitation can be extended to any briefing session that will be arranged in the future.

It was RESOLVED to recommend to the Executive that it approves the Local Tenants Participation Strategy for consultation.

ACTION : As noted above.

6 WORK PROGRAMME

Submitted – a report by the Scrutiny Officer on the Committee's Work Programme to June 2019.

It was RESOLVED to note the Work Programme to June 2019.

ACTION : As noted above.

The meeting concluded at 4.15 pm

**COUNCILLOR G O JONES
CHAIR**