

PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on 10 November 2020

- PRESENT:** Councillor Gwilym O Jones (Chair)
Councillor Glyn Haynes (Vice-Chair)
- Councillors T LI Hughes MBE, K P Hughes, Vaughan Hughes,
R LI Jones, Alun Roberts, Dafydd Roberts and
Margaret Murley Roberts
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive,
Deputy Chief Executive,
Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer (for item 4),
Director of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer (for item 4),
Interim Director of Social Services,
Interim Head of Adults Services,
Interim Director of Regulation and Economic (for item 4),
Service Manager – Learning Disability and Mental Health (BW) (for Item 3),
Head of Housing Services,
Principal Development Officer (TJ) (for item 4),
Finance Manager (CE),
Scrutiny Manager,
Scrutiny Officer (SR),
Committee Officer (MEH).
- APOLOGIES:** Councillor Nicola Roberts
- ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Llinos M Huws – Leader and Portfolio Holder for Social Services (for items 3, 4, 5 and 6);
Councillor Carwyn Jones – Portfolio Holder (Major Projects and Economic Development)
Councillor Dafydd R Thomas – Portfolio Holder (Corporate Services).
- Ms Alwen Williams and Mr Hedd Vaughan Evans – North Wales Economic Ambition Board (for item 4),
Ms Bethan Jones Edwards – Head of Regional Collaboration (Denbighshire County Council) (for item 5),
Ms Nonn Hughes – Programme Manager, Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board (for item 6),
Mr Emyr Williams – Chair of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board (for item 6).
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1 APOLOGIES

As noted above.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

3 YNYS MON COUNTY COUNCIL AND BETSI CADWALADR UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD SHARED SERVICE DELIVERY (POOLED BUDGET) PILOT - LEARNING DISABILITIES

Submitted – a report by the Interim Head of Adults' Services.

The Leader with responsibility for Social Services reported that the pilot scheme – learning disabilities sets out the priority for both the County Council and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board for the initial 12 months period to set up a project in an experimental model of pooled budgets. The pilot scheme is aimed to ensure that best use of funds, across the local authority and the health board will be used to make timely decisions in the day to day care and support for Learning Disabilities clients. The pilot scheme will have the added benefit of supporting the delivery of the North Wales Social Services and Wellbeing Improvement Collaborative Integration Agreement under Part 9 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

The Interim Head of Adults' Services reported that it is an ongoing challenge to balance the needs of citizens within the financial allocation, but the pilot scheme, supported by a Section 33 agreement, highlights clear integrated planning. She noted that there are 36 jointly funded care packages for individuals who live within supported living which are incorporated into Phase 1 of the pilot scheme. She noted that this links to the supported living tendering process. It has been agreed that the full amount for the pooled budget will be transferred by April 2021 and that the management and administration of the budget will be carried out by the Authority as the host organisation. An independent evaluation of the pilot will be carried out by IPC in order to ascertain the success or otherwise of the project. The current total spend for the Health Board and the Local Authority is currently:-

- Health Board - £1,346,723.81
- Local Authority - £1,819,478.06

She further reiterated that this is a Phase 1 pilot for 12 months and an external evaluation of the pilot scheme will decide how to move forward after the 12 months period and the Regional Partnership Board will evaluate the progress of the scheme with quarterly report submitted to the Board.

The Committee considered the report and made the following points:-

- Questions raised as to how the signing of the Section 33 Agreement will manage any possible risks to the Council of introducing a pooled budget. The

Interim Head of Adults' Services responded that the funding from both the local authority and health board will not be increased and the Section 33 Agreement stipulates that neither organisation can withdraw financial commitment during the Phase 1 period of the agreement;

- Questions raised whether a similar scheme has taken place within any other local authority in Wales or England and whether lessons can be learnt from such schemes. The Service Manager – Learning Disability and Mental Health responded that a visit was arranged to Manchester to listen to their partnership board when consideration was undertaken in respect of initial discussion as regards to pooled budgets. She noted that the pooled budget initiative partnership in the Manchester areas was extensive with 10 local authorities, health board, CCG which commissions the health authority in England incorporated into the pooled budget scheme and it was evident that it was necessary to evaluate the progress of the scheme in phases;
- Questions raised as to what added value will derive from taking part in the pilot pooled budget scheme. The Interim Head of Adults' Services responded that the pooled budget scheme will give assurance that the resources are in place and can be managed as to how the funding will be spent. She noted that it will allow Officer's to gauge and gain overview of the value for money aspect of the scheme and whether the services afforded are adequate for the clients;
- Reference were made whether there will be an effect on the services to the 36 individuals who receive the support through the supported living scheme and whether their families are aware of the pilot scheme. The Service Manager – Learning Disability and Mental Health responded that the 36 individuals will not see any change to the services provided but it is hoped that decisions as regards to required services can be afforded speedily to the service users. She further noted that the families of the individuals are aware of the scheme.

It was RESOLVED to recommend to the Executive the approval of the piloting of a pooled fund between the Isle of Anglesey County Council and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board in a staged approach for the existing supported living budget for adults with learning disabilities residents in Anglesey who are currently jointly funded.

ACTION : As noted above.

4 GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENT 2 - NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD

The Chair welcomed Ms Alwen Williams and Mr Hedd Vaughan Evans – North Wales Economic Ambition Board (EAB) to the meeting.

Submitted – a report by the Leader and the Chief Executive.

The Leader said that the EAB is committed to achieving the Final Deal Agreement with both the UK and Welsh Governments before the end of December 2020. She noted that it is considered that the EAB has now reached a milestone and there is a clear plan to the projects contained within the Growth Deal.

The Chief Executive reported that in 2016 the EAB adopted a Growth Vision for the Economy of North Wales. Based on the Growth Vision Strategy, a Growth Deal was prepared and agreed by all the partners working with both the UK and Welsh Government and the private sector in October 2018. In November 2019 the EAB and the UK and Welsh Governments agreed the Heads of Terms, with a Final Deal Agreement to be completed in 2020. She expressed that it is important that the Council is part of the EAB and that a strong governance structure and working in partnership has been imperative in reaching the milestone of being ready to sign the Final Deal Agreement.

The Deputy Chief Executive reported that the Growth Bid does include a number of strategic economic development interventions and working in partnership the region can attract this investment; without the Ambition Board and the Growth Bid the resources would not have reached North Wales. The Growth Bid affords a level of activity and investments by the public sector to support the economy which has not been seen since the austerity period. The Business Plan attached report complies fully with the expectations and requirements of both the UK and Welsh Governments and which includes input from the private and public sectors. The Deputy Chief Executive further said Growth Bid will support the high value sectors to flourish and address structural, long-term barriers to economic growth. However, the Board is fully aware that in the short-term a range of actions will be needed to facilitate recovery and alignment between those short term measures and the Growth Deal is key. It is anticipated that the Growth Bid will attract 4,000 new employment opportunities and will generate between £2 billion and £2.4 billion GVA per year and will attract possible investments of over £1 billion.

The Deputy Chief Executive further said that the anticipated direct benefit for Anglesey is as follows:-

- Direct investment in capital projects on Anglesey including Holyhead Gateway, Morlais and MSParc development;
- Supply chain and job opportunities for local companies from large capital project such as Morlais, Holyhead Gateway and other regional investments;
- Improved digital connectivity for businesses, residents and visitors and a 5G tested at MSParc;
- Access to new facilities, equipment, support and specialist research for food and drink businesses;
- Access to cutting-edge research and support on sustainable farming techniques for Anglesey's farming businesses through the Grwp Llandrillo Menai site in Glynllifon;
- Opportunities for renewable energy initiatives within the Smart Access to Energy projects, investment in a Low Carbon Centre of Excellence at MSParc;
- Demonstrator projects involving production of hydrogen from low carbon energy sources;
- Potential opportunities for strategic sites to be developed as part of the long-term Land and Property programme;
- Improved skills through biotechnology, low carbon centre of excellence, tourism and the rural economy.

The Director of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer reported that the Growth Bid will have an effect on the budget of the Council. Staffing costs to support the projects within the Growth Deal will be required for a period of 15 years. The 6 North Wales local authorities and the partner organisations i.e. 2 Universities and 2 Colleges have agreed the funding with each local authority initially contributing £50k in addition to the £40k that was contributed to the EAB; therefore each local authority contributing £90k. These contributions will be reviewed annually to take account of any increase in pay and pensions costs. He noted that it is expected that the funding of the projects will take place in the first 6 to 7 years of the project but the funding will not be afforded to North Wales by the UK and Welsh Governments within a pattern of spending by the EAB but will be afforded through payments over the 15 year period. Therefore, the EAB will need to borrow money to facilitate the negative cash flow for the Growth Deal and the finance from the governments will need to be used to refund the borrowing strategy. It is accepted that interest will need to be paid on any borrowing and the overall interest costs which fall on the 6 authorities will be split on the basis of population, with Anglesey contributing around 10% to the annual cost. This will equate to £47k - £67k per year for this Authority but it was noted that these are estimated costs and there are potential risks as it will be dependent on the spending forecast of the Growth Deal and as to how much borrowing will need to take place when projects develop. The interest rate modelled was 2.2% but the actual interest rate may change depending on the type of borrowing undertaken, the timing of the borrowing and the economic conditions prevalent at the time. The Director of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer further said that business rates will need to be paid on rateable properties that will result from some of the projects and the Welsh Government have agreed in principle that 50% of the additional business rates generated will be transferred back to the EAB as a contribution towards the additional borrowing costs. He further said that the Growth Deal will identify the resources each project will receive and there will be a need to monitor these project to make sure that they do not overspend as there is no additional resources available.

The Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer reported that a Governance Agreement 2 (GA2) is required and a copy of the draft GA2 was attached to Appendix 4 together with a summary at Appendix 3 of the report. The GA2 is designed to regulate the partnership between the 6 North Wales Local Councils and the 4 Colleges for the duration of the Growth Deal. She noted that the report will be submitted to the full Council to be held on 8th December, 2020 with the recommendations as set out in the report.

She referred to the Scrutiny questions at 4 and 5 within the report as to how the partnership will be regulated after the Growth Deal has been signed. Scrutiny and monitoring processes will be undertaken by the EAB with a membership consisting of each Leader of the 6 North Wales Councils, each of whom have a vote. The 4 Colleges will also be members of the EAB but will not have a vote as the EAB is a statutory joint committee. A Leader from each of the 6 Councils will be appointed Chair on an annual basis but will not have a casting vote. If any item on the EAB's agenda does not receive agreement, the item will be subject to a cooling-off period and will then return to the EAB for further consideration. If no agreements can then be reached by the EAB the proposal will fall. Owing to the statutory joint committee

model agreed by the parties the agendas, reports and minutes will be published and available on the Council's website. She further referred to the Host Authority model which has been chosen by the parties with Gwynedd Council appointed as the host authority. The Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer of Gwynedd Council will advise the EAB and its staff. HR, Audit and ICT services will also be provided by Gwynedd Council. The EAB will operate under the Standing Orders and Procurement Rules of Gwynedd Council. Any significant changes to the Overarching Business Plan, as well as any significant changes to the GA2, budgetary matters and any partners seeking to leave the EAB are all reserved matters which will need to be considered and approved by the full Council. The elected members on EAB will be subject to their Members' Code of Conduct as will Officers working for the EAB. The representatives of the Colleges will be subject to a Conflict Policy as they have no Code of Conduct. Decision records will be produced and published and a quarterly report will be submitted to each partner which will report on progress of individual projects including their financial performance. She referred to how Scrutiny of the EAB would work as set out in the third schedule to the report.

The Committee considered the report and made the following points:-

- Reference was made as to the possible risks of overspend within projects. Questions were raised as to how the economic projects within the Growth Deal will be managed if there is overspend in a particular project. The Leader responded that it has been raised as a risk at the EAB and mitigation measures have been put in place. She expressed that some of the projects within the Growth Deal are immature at present and still developing ideas but if other projects are more mature they would be prioritised. There are also other sources of funding for energy projects as well as the Growth Deal. She noted that there will be monitoring of the budgets by the host authority. Ms Alwen Williams (EAB) said that the role of the Officers within the EAB will be to manage the projects within the Growth Deal to the best possible standards. She noted that there is a possibility within some of the projects to create revenue investments that can be reinvested within the region;
- Questions raised as to how the EAB is going to adjust to the covid-19 pandemic and during the recovery period and Brexit. The Leader expressed that the Growth Bid is the main focus of the EAB but they have been able to collect evidence on the effect of the pandemic on the region as well as taking Brexit related factors into consideration. She expressed that it has been important that the Officers of the EAB have been able to carry on with their day to day work on the Growth Bid;
- A member referred to the strategic nature of the EAB and expressed the view that he would have expected that a Trade Union representative needed to be part of the EAB. The Leader responded that the matter needs to be considered by the EAB.

It was RESOLVED to recommend to the Executive and Council to approve the draft resolutions as worded in the report.

ACTION : As noted above.

5 ANNUAL REPORT : REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD (PART 9 : HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES)

The Chair welcomed Ms Bethan Jones Edwards – Head of Regional Collaboration (Denbighshire County Council) to the meeting.

Submitted – a report by the Interim Director of Social Services.

The Leader with responsibilities for Social Services said that the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 requires that each Regional Partnership Board produces and publishes an Annual Report on its work and is submitted also the Welsh Government. The Act requires that local authorities make arrangements to promote co-operation with their relevant partners and others, in relation to adults with needs for care and support, carers and children. It places a duty on relevant partners to co-operate with, and provide information to, the local authorities for the purposes of their social services functions.

The Committee considered the report and made the following points:-

- Questions raised as to what extent is the pooled budget arrangement adequately robust for the provision of Care Homes across the region, and is it effectively managed. The Head of Regional Collaboration responded that Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 stipulated that pooled budget is required as regards to Care Homes. It was noted that transactional arrangement have been put in place across the region for pooled budgets and has been signed by the partnership organisations. The Leader highlighted that there is a substantial risk as being part of the regional pooled budget in respect of this matter but measures have been put in place, in accordance with the expectations of Welsh Government as regards to pooled budgets and it safeguards the Authority and the region as a whole;
- Questions raised to what extent does the work of the partnership contribute successfully towards achieving the principles of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 on the Island. The Interim Director of Social Services referred to 4 projects on Anglesey that has seen substantial process i.e. Resilience Families (due to the pandemic funding has been afforded to local communities to provide activities to children and families); CRT projects (Adults' Services) – a phased scheme within the local communities has been established to co-ordinate the services to support individuals and especially when people are discharged from hospital; Learning Disabilities (mapping work has been undertaken on the Island in respect of day care facilities for learning disabilities); Mental Health (discussions are currently been undertaken with partner organisations regarding the I Can funding and how it can be rolled out to support mental health issues within the Island);
- Questions raised as to how the membership of the Board changed since the introduction of the updated Part 9 Statutory Guidance in January 2019, and what additional value has this created regionally and locally. The Head of Regional Collaboration responded that the guidelines came to effect in January 2019 following Welsh Government consultation on the draft guidelines, additional membership of the Board has included representatives from Registered Social Landlords, Housing Services and Education Services

representatives from local authorities. She noted that discussions are taking place to include two representatives from the Carers' Service on the Board locally. The Leader expressed that it is challenging that the membership of such Boards is extensive and there is a need for the membership to be reviewed.

It was RESOLVED :-

- **To confirm that the Committee has taken into account the work that is required to be undertaken by the Regional Partnership Board;**
- **That the Committee notes the work and progress in 2019/20 on the work areas that are being taken forward regionally through the North Wales Regional Partnership Board.**

ACTION : As noted above.

6 PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD - SCRUTINY OF GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair welcomed Mr Emyr Williams, Chair of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board and Ms Nonn Hughes, Programme Manager to the meeting.

Submitted – a report by the Programme Manager, Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board.

The Leader said that the Authority is committed to the principles within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Council provides a range of services which will fulfil its individual well-being objectives, as well as contributing to supporting the well-being objectives of the Public Services Board.

The Programme Manager, Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board reported on the governance arrangements of the Public Service Board. It was noted that the Public Services Board has four statutory members as stated in the Terms of Reference namely - The Local Authorities, Health Resources Wales and the Fire Service together with guest participants who contribute to the Board's duties. The Board has established Sub-Groups to support the delivery of its work. An update on the work of the Sub-Groups was included within the report. The four Sub-Groups are accountable to the Public Services Board in relation to any work commissioned. The Sub-Groups update the Board on progress quarterly, and during the meetings of the Board the update reports are challenged and discussed in detail. She further said that due to the covid-19 pandemic, the regional Coordination Group has agreed on areas that needs focus in the recovery of our communities from the pandemic. A workshop was held in September to discuss the role of the Public Services Board in the recovery of the pandemic, with particular focus on community resilience. Following the workshop it was agreed that the Public Services Board's priorities moving forward will be to continue with the core work of the Public Services Board as the current objectives and priorities of the Well-being Plan remain current. There will be an opportunity to revise the work streams of existing sub-groups by taking into account the findings of the workshop. Over the coming months all the sub-groups will give due consideration to adapting their work programmes and milestones. It was also agreed to undertaken further

research in some areas, to ascertain the latest position such a financial poverty and unemployment.

The Chair of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board said that the Public Services Board have been established in accordance with the Well-being Act but no financial resources has been afforded and it has been difficult to deliver. It was also emphasised that the Public Services Board is firm that they want to avoid duplication, as the purpose of the Public Services Board is to add value to existing schemes.

The Committee considered the report and made the following points:-

- Questions raised as to what extent are the reporting and monitoring processes on the work of the sub-groups sufficiently structured and robust, an ensure accountability of the sub-groups and hold them to account in terms of the implementation of the work programmes. The Programme Manager responded that the sub-groups update the Board on progress quarterly, and during the meetings of the Board the update reports are challenged and discussed in detail. The leaders of the Public Services Board sub-groups are members of the Public Services Board, and it is their responsibility to submit an action plan and details about delivery;
- Questions raised as to what extent are the arrangements to amend the work programmes' of the Public Services Board as a result of Covid-19 sufficiently robust in order to respond to current and possible future challenges. The Chair of the Public Services Board said that the Minister for Housing and Local Government has set out procedures and specifically in respect of community resilience. The Board's decision was be convene a workshop and numerous suggestions were received by partner organisations. He noted that lessons can be learnt from the pandemic as to the resilience of local communities and how to address issues without duplication of services afforded by statutory bodies.

It was RESOLVED to note the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board governance arrangements.

ACTION : As noted above.

7 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2020/21

Submitted – the report of the Scrutiny Officer.

It was RESOLVED to note the Work Programme from September 2020 to April 2021.

The meeting concluded at 4.30 pm

**COUNCILLOR GWILYM O JONES
CHAIR**