

<b>Meeting of:</b>	<b>CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>24 OCTOBER 2024</b>
<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>CWM TAF MORGANNWG PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD (PSB) AND JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (JOSC)</b>
<b>Report Owner / Corporate Director:</b>	<b>CHIEF OFFICER – LEGAL &amp; REGULATORY SERVICES, HR &amp; CORPORATE POLICY</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>MERYL LAWRENCE SENIOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER - SCRUTINY</b>
<b>Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:</b>	<b>The work of Overview and Scrutiny Committees relate to the review and monitoring of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental wellbeing in the County Borough of Bridgend. Any changes to the structure of the Scrutiny Committees and the procedures relating to them would require the Bridgend County Borough Council Constitution to be updated.</b>
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	<b>This report revisits the Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) Public Services Board (PSB) Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) which is within the remit of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and requests the Committee to consider the information in the report and the presentation.</b>  <b>Following the above consideration, the Committee is asked to consider nominations to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Service Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2024-25, for 5 Members from this Committee (as the Scrutiny Committee designated to scrutinise the work of the PSB as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015) and 1 substitute Member to attend when one of the core Members are not available, based on the political balance of the Committee as far as practical, as set out in paragraph 3.4 below.</b>

## **1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 The purpose of the report is:

- a) To consider information in the report and a presentation from Officers who support the Public Services Board in response to the issues raised by the Committee in its meeting held on 24 July 2024.
- b) Following consideration of the information in the report and presentation, to ask Members of the Committee to consider nominating to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Service Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the 2024-25 municipal year, 5 Members from this Committee (as the Scrutiny Committee designated to scrutinise the work of the PSB as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015) and 1 Substitute member.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 Joint scrutiny arrangements and Terms of Reference for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee were agreed by Council on 19 July 2023, to ensure effective scrutiny arrangements are in place to scrutinise the established single Public Service Board (PSB) for Cwm Taf Morgannwg.
- 2.2 For the 2023-24 municipal year, Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC) (as the Scrutiny Committee designated to scrutinise the work of the Public Service Board as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015 and based on the political balance of this Committee as far as practical), nominated five members of the Committee to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Service Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) for the 2023-24 municipal year and one substitute Member from the Committee to attend the JOSC when one of the core Members are not available.
- 2.3 At the meeting of COSC on 25 July 2024, Members expressed concerns about the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Service Board (PSB) and Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC). Whilst acknowledging their responsibilities under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act to hold the PSB to account, and stating that there was merit in ensuring that there was a collaborative approach with other local authorities, the output of the PSB needed to be looked at as there appeared to be very little which is substantive for the JOSC to scrutinise.
- 2.4 Consequently it was agreed that no Members would be nominated for the 2024/25 municipal year at that meeting and that Scrutiny Officers would convey the Committee's concerns and explore what improvements could be made to make it worthwhile for Members to participate on the JOSC.

### 3. Current situation / proposal

- 3.1 Following the meeting on 25 July 2024, Scrutiny Officers fed back to the Officers who supported the CTM PSB JOSC and the newly elected Chair of the JOSC attended the next meeting of the PSB to convey this Committee's concerns and explore what improvements could be made and be fed back to this Committee.
- 3.2 Subsequently, a Member Development Session was held on 15 October 2024 in which Officers who support the Public Services Board presented an Introduction to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act and the role of the Public Services Board as background and in preparation of reporting back to the Committee on 24 October 2024. The Session was also open to all Members to attend as refresher training.
- 3.3. Officers who support the Public Services Board will be attending the meeting of COSC on 24 October 2024 to present feedback in response to the issues raised by the Committee and the following summary response has been provided for inclusion:

“We thank former Bridgend Members of JOSC for providing their views, a summary of which was shared at the September meetings of both JOSC and PSB. JOSC has an important role to act as a critical friend to the PSB and we value their commitment to scrutinise the work of the Board, not just on the delivery of the Well-being Plan but on the ways of working, notably ‘involvement’ and ‘collaboration’ as agreed would be a priority.

Our Annual Report, shared with JOSC on 4<sup>th</sup> June, shows the range of activity of the PSB. Whilst this activity does not produce the kind of measurable outputs Members may be more familiar with scrutinising, this activity is the foundation for achieving the Objectives set out in the PSB Well-being Plan. As we move into year two, and in light of WG decisions to not fund a national project, we are also working with Data Cymru to develop a data system that can support our shared understanding of well-being in Cwm Taf Morgannwg and monitor impact.

PSB made a commitment to undertake an annual Board review, and the one undertaken this summer included feedback from JOSC alongside input from PSB member surveys, discussion, and a workshop. The review highlighted the unique position of the PSB to promote collaboration between the broad range of senior leaderships and bodies that can seek joint solutions to underlying issues that impact across our organisations. Findings of this review and recommendations were shared back to the PSB in September and are included in the [12 September 2024 PSB meeting Agenda pack](#). This includes the production of a forward work programme, also included in the pack.

Balancing the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act to take a long-term view and adopt preventative approaches whilst facing

such a period of unprecedented and urgent demand on resources is a significant challenge. JOSC members bring an important voice from their communities and can help the PSB to negotiate this challenge, and it is vital that JOSC membership reflects the whole of the area that the PSB is working to serve. We would be keen to hear from Members on their views of the right way to go about this and work together to achieve our vision of a more equal Cwm Taf Morgannwg.”

3.4 Following consideration of the information in the report and presentation, Members of the Committee are asked to consider nominating to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Service Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for the 2024-25 municipal year, 5 Members from this Committee (as the Scrutiny Committee designated to scrutinise the work of the PSB as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015) and 1 Substitute member to attend when one of the core Members are not available, based on the political balance of the Committee as far as practical, as follows:

- 3 Members from Labour;
- 1 Member and 1 Substitute Member from Bridgend County Independents;
- 1 Member from Democratic Alliance.

#### **4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)**

4.1 The Protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

#### **5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives**

5.1 The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with 5 Ways of Working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The following is a summary to show how the 5 Ways of Working to achieve the well-being goals have been used to formulate the recommendations within this report:

- Long Term – The establishment of the Joint Scrutiny Arrangements will enable the Authority’s long-term commitment to effective scrutiny of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB.
- Prevention – The PSB Wellbeing Assessment and Plan will be preventative in nature and progress will be scrutinised effectively.

- Integration – The proposed arrangements are for integrated joint scrutiny by three Local Authorities of the integrated partnership arrangements of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Service Board.
- Collaboration – This report supports collaborative working with other Local Authorities and partners to effectively scrutinise the PSB.
- Involvement – The joint arrangements will enable effective scrutiny of the wellbeing assessment, plan and progress and promote the involvement of stakeholders, partners in scrutiny activity.

5.2 The proposed arrangements will assist in the achievement of the Council's 7 Well-being Objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**, listed below:

1. A County Borough where we protect our most vulnerable
2. A County Borough with fair work, skilled, high-quality jobs and thriving towns
3. A County Borough with thriving valleys communities
4. A County Borough where we help people meet their potential
5. A County Borough that is responding to the climate and nature emergency
6. A County Borough where people feel valued, heard and part of their community
7. A County Borough where we support people to live healthy and happy lives

## **6. Climate Change Implications**

6.1 There are no Climate Change Implications arising from this report.

## **7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications**

7.1 There are no Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications arising from this report.

## **8. Financial Implications**

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **9. Recommendation**

9.1 The committee is recommended to:

- a) Consider the information in the report and presentation from Officers who support the Public Services Board, in response to the issues raised by the Committee in its meeting held on 24 July 2024;
  
- b) Nominate to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Service Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for the 2024-25 municipal year, 5 Members from this Committee (as the Scrutiny Committee designated to scrutinise the work of the Public Services Board as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015) and 1 Substitute member to attend when one of the core Members are not available, based on the political balance of the Committee, as follows:
  - 3 Members from Labour;
  - 1 Member and 1 Substitute Member from Bridgend County Independents;
  - 1 Member from Democratic Alliance.

### **Background documents**

None.