

Report to	Democratic Services Committee
Date of meeting	4 October 2019
Lead Officer	Democratic Services Manager
Report author	Steve Price]
Title	Joint Scrutiny of the Public Services Board

1. What is the report about?

This report is an update on the progress of the joint scrutiny arrangements in place to scrutinise the Public Services Board.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

This report was requested by the Committee to provide an early overview of the joint Scrutiny arrangements.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Democratic Services Committee considers the progress of the joint scrutiny arrangements for scrutinising the Public Services Board.

4. Report details

In October 2018 Denbighshire County Council and Conwy County Borough Council established the Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Joint Committee fulfils a statutory requirement on local authorities to designate a scrutiny committee to scrutinise the work of the joint Public Services Board (PSB) for Conwy and Denbighshire. The view of the PSB and the local authorities was that a formal

joint Scrutiny committee was the most appropriate vehicle to effectively scrutinise a strategic cross-county board like the PSB.

A training and introduction session for the members of the new Joint Scrutiny Committee was held in February this year which outlined the main aims of the Committee:

- to hold Public Services Boards to account both democratically and locally
- to scrutinise the PSBs decisions and actions
- to scrutinise the PSBs governance arrangements
- to engage with the PSB when being consulted on its Well-being Assessments and Plans.

The training also included information on the work of the PSB to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the area as directed by the Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, plus information about the Scrutiny Committee's own governance arrangements. Welsh Government guidance for local authority scrutiny committees on the scrutiny of PSBs is attached as appendix 1.

The Joint Scrutiny Committee held its first meeting in Bodlondeb, Conwy in May 2019 where it reviewed and endorsed the PSB's 2018 – 2019 Annual Report and its three priority areas of mental well-being, community empowerment and environmental resilience.

The second meeting of the Joint Scrutiny Committee was scheduled to be held on the 27 September 2019. This meeting was to have focused on the Environmental Resilience priority but has been postponed owing to the unavailability of the PSB organisation leading on the priority. The meeting will be rescheduled as soon as a new date has been agreed.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

No decision is required but the Council's Corporate Plan was developed in consultation with partner organisations, including the PSB partners. The PSB's Well-being Plan and the Council's Corporate Plan have complementary aims and activities.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

The governance arrangements for the joint Scrutiny Committee allocate the lead scrutiny officer and committee officer support roles to the committee chair's authority. Councillor Brian Cossey of Conwy is the current chair so those support roles reside with Conwy, with additional support from Denbighshire's Scrutiny Officer.

The role of chair alternates every two years between the local authorities at which time the lead support role for the committee will transfer to Denbighshire.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

An impact assessment is not required for this progress report. However, the Democratic Services Committee's role in supporting effective scrutiny arrangements of the PSB will contribute to the PSB's delivery of its statutory role under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

None were required for this report.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

Not required for this report.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

The joint scrutiny arrangements outlined in this report have been put in place to share resources and information in respect of the Scrutiny committee's role and to facilitate effective scrutiny of the PSB. A detailed terms of reference and rules of procedure was agreed by the two local authorities to clarify how these would be achieved.

11. Power to make the decision

Section 35 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Section 58 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011

Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees) (Wales)
Regulations 2013