

Public Document Pack

Bwrdd Gwasanaeth Cyhoeddus Powys Public Service Board

Meeting Venue
By Zoom

Meeting Date
Tuesday, 6 June 2023

Meeting Time
2.00 pm

For further information please contact
steve.boyd@powys.gov.uk



County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 5LG
26/05/2023

AGENDA

1.	ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES
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To welcome attendees and receive any apologies.

2.	APPROVAL OF POWYS PSB WELL-BEING PLAN
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To approve the Powys PSB Well-Being Plan.
(Pages 3 - 70)

3.	ANNUAL REPORT - BRECON TOWN COUNCIL
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To receive Brecon Town Council's annual report.
(Pages 71 - 90)

4.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
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To consider any matters of urgency as agreed in advance with the Chair.

5.	MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING
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To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 February 2023 and consider any matters arising.
(Pages 91 - 94)

6.	DATES OF FUTURE PSB MEETINGS
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- Thursday 6th July 10.00am – 12.00pm
- Thursday 28th September 10.00am – 12.00pm
- Friday 15th December 10.00am – 12.00pm



POWYS PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

POWYS PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD WELL-BEING PLAN

REPORT FOR: APPROVAL

TUESDAY 6TH JUNE 2023

1. SUMMARY

1.1	The purpose of this report is to present Powys Public Services Board (PSB) Well-being Plan for consideration, and to seek PSB's endorsement for its adoption and publication.
1.2	The PSB's Well-being Plan sets out our new well-being objectives and the steps we need to take to deliver them

2. BACKGROUND

2.1	The Well-being Plan is presented to Council for the first time in support of the new ambition, " <i>A Fair, Healthy, Sustainable Powys</i> ".
2.2	It introduces the three well-being objectives that are its core aim: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People in Powys live happy, healthy and safe lives • Powys is a county of sustainable places and communities • An increasingly effective Public Service for the people of Powys
2.3	To support the delivery of these well-being objectives, the PSB has identified the below priority steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responding to the Climate Emergency • Taking a whole systems approach to healthy weight • Shaping the future by improving our understanding of what matters to the people of Powys through evidence and insight
2.4	Partners from across the PSB have collaborated with to determine the new Well-being Plan. Advice has also been sought from the Future Generation's



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	Commissioners Office. A public consultation took place throughout early 2023, and feedback from all consultation activities (both internal and external) was considered in developing the plan.
2.5	The publication of this plan in June 2023 will ensure we meet our statutory obligations set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. These require the Council to implement well-being objectives in accordance with the 5 Ways of Working as well as to show how we will maximise our contribution to the 7 Well-Being Goals.
2.6	Work has been undertaken across the PSB Partners to align this Plan with their own organisational well-being objectives. Alongside this, there has been consideration of how this aligns to other partnership activity, such as the Regional Partnership Board.

3. PROPOSAL

3.1	It is proposed Well-being Plan is approved for publication and is implemented and reported upon from June 2023.
3.2	It is required that the Plan, once approved, is reviewed annually to ensure that the objectives and supporting activities are still the most relevant for delivering improved outcomes for Powys people and communities, as well as ensuring the plan remains realistic and achievable within the challenging financial climate.
3.3	It is proposed that PSB Partners promote the Well-being Plan through their available internal and external channels to raise awareness of this Plan.

4. RESOURCING

4.1	This Well-being Plan, and the action plans contained within, has been worked on collaboratively between Partners. Where activities are being undertaken using existing resource, Partners are
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POWYS PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

	anticipated to provide resource accordingly and align with their own organisational business planning methods.
4.2	Where there is a requirement for additional funding, officers across the PSB have been working together collectively to fundraise. The Action Plan related to the step “Responding to the Climate Emergency” is still awaiting an outcome from bidding for Shared Prosperity Fund monies. The PSB will be further updated following the closure of this funding cycle.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1	It is recommended that the Well-being Plan is approved for publication, with implementation from June 2023
5.2	The recommendation above will ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PSB has a clear Well-being Plan, and that identified steps are focused on delivering the objectives • That the PSB meets its statutory obligations as outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

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WELL-BEING PLAN

Powys Public Services Board

A Fair, Sustainable and Healthy Powys

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

If you require this document in an alternative format, please contact:

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A message from the Chair

Public Services Boards were set up under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act in 2015 to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The role of Powys Public Services Board (PSB) is to lead a strategic, evidence-based and collaborative effort to maximise well-being in Powys, now and for future generations. Powys PSB has a pivotal role in leading a whole system approach to change in the county.

Powys is experiencing significant challenges to the well-being of people and the natural world we depend on. For more than two years, COVID-19 deeply affected well-being in Powys and continues to impact many. We are experiencing the first-hand effects of the deepening climate and nature emergencies. And the cost-of-living crisis is widening economic inequality and pushing many into hardship. This hardship is impacting well-being in multiple ways.

Action is needed to prevent long-term harm to well-being, such as supporting people to have the best start in life to avoid obesity. But there are also great opportunities as we bridge to a zero-carbon, more nature-friendly future that strengthens the local economy and supports residents' well-being.

Our [new 2022 Well-being Assessment](#) has helped us to identify key areas for Powys PSB to work on together that add particular value driven by the public sector coordinating efforts in the county.

Three priorities emerged: responding to the climate emergency, healthy weights, and strengthening public sector evidence and insights. These have been chosen because they have the potential to be transformational to Powys' well-being.

The Powys PSB Well-being Assessment and Well-being Plan were developed with the involvement of PSB members, stakeholders and the public across Powys. I extend my sincere thanks to everyone who contributed evidence and ideas, to the Future Generations Commissioner's Office which has supported with time and expertise, and to colleagues across the PSB who have worked to crystallise this Well-being Plan.

From all of our public and stakeholder engagement, it is clear that there is a strong will to develop Powys PSB as an exemplar of best practice and to deliver transformational change for Powys. I am pleased to have the opportunity to chair the PSB at this time of challenge and change.

Councillor James Gibson-Watt, Powys Public Services Board Chair, and Leader of Powys County Council.

What is a Well-being Plan?

A Well-being Plan is a document agreed by the Public Services Board (PSB) to agree what objectives and steps they will be undertaking to improve the well-being of the people of Powys.

The last local government election took place in May 2022. As set out in the [statutory guidance](#), the local well-being plan must be published no later than 12 months after each subsequent ordinary local election. The PSB must seek the advice of the statutory Future Generations Commissioner for Wales on how to take steps to meet the local objectives in a manner which is consistent with the sustainable development principles, which is often referred to as the “Five Ways of Working”.

These principles are:

1. **Long term:** The importance of balancing short-term needs whilst safeguarding the impact on future generations.
2. **Prevention:** How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.
3. **Integration:** Considering how our well-being objectives may impact upon the well-being goals, or on objectives set by other public bodies.
4. **Collaboration:** Acting in collaboration with others and different organisations that could help us meet our well-being objectives.
5. **Involvement:** The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

The last [Future Generations Report](#) was published in 2020. In setting its local objectives the PSB must also consider the latest Future Generations Report as prepared by the Commissioner, which provides an assessment of the improvements public bodies should make in order to set and meet well-being objectives in accordance with the sustainable development principle. This plan also considers how the objectives set contribute towards the well-being goals outlined below:

1. **A prosperous Wales:** An innovative, productive, and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and that develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

2. **A resilient Wales:** A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic, and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example, climate change).
3. **A healthier Wales:** A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which the choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.
4. **A more equal Wales:** A society which enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic factors).
5. **A Wales of cohesive communities:** Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.
6. **A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language:** A society which promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.
7. **A globally responsible Wales:** A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

What is the Powys Public Services Board?

The Public Services Board (PSB) is a statutory strategic partnership established under the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#). The Act requires key local organisations in Powys to work together and take a more co-ordinated and long-term approach to the issues that really matter to the people of the county. In doing so, the PSB must assess the state of well-being locally (a copy of the most recent Well-being Assessment can be found here: [Full Well-being Assessment analysis](#)). The findings from the Well-being Assessment have been used to inform objectives and produce a plan designed to improve economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being in the Powys area.

The statutory partners are the organisations that are required by the Act to be members of the PSB, these are:

- Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service - www.mawwfire.gov.uk
- Natural Resources Wales - <https://naturalresources.wales>
- Powys County Council - www.powys.gov.uk
- Powys Teaching Health Board - www.powysthb.wales.nhs.uk

Other invited organisations who play a key role in the PSB include:

- Bannau Brycheiniog National Park - www.beacons-npa.gov.uk

- Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations - www.pavo.org.uk
- Dyfed Powys Police - www.dyfed-powys.police.uk
- Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner - www.dyfedpowys-pcc.org.uk
- Department for Work and Pensions
- Welsh Government
- Probation Service
- Powys's Towns and Community Councils

What is our vision and draft well-being objectives?

The Public Services Board vision is for a **Fair, Sustainable and Healthy Powys**.

The three well-being objectives which shape the work to achieve the vision are:

- People in Powys live happy, healthy and safe lives
- Powys is a county of sustainable places and communities
- An increasingly effective Public Service for the people of Powys

How our objectives consider the Sustainable Development Principle

Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals. These have been considered as below:

Sustainable Development Principle	How our objectives consider the Sustainable Development Principle
Long term	Whilst we will be making decisions that support people's immediate needs, we will focus on creating an environment of sustainable places and communities fit for the future. Powys will be a healthy, fair, safe, and prosperous county, contributing to a healthier Wales that is globally responsible in its approach.
Prevention	We will become a resilient county by proactively adapting to change. The effectiveness of public services will be improved through enhanced partnership working, and having people's health, safety, and well-being at the heart of everything we aim to do.
Integration	We will work as a PSB to align our organisational and shared plans to have the greatest positive impact for the people of Powys. The Well-being Goals are embedded throughout all partners' work.
Collaboration	We understand the immense value that diverse people and organisations can bring to the development of the county and the work of the PSB. We will encourage others to collaborate as part of our work and will also identify opportunities for the PSB to contribute to the work of others.
Involvement	We believe involvement is vital to ensure that we are focusing on the right things to meet the needs of Powys. Our 2022 Well-being

Sustainable Development Principle	How our objectives consider the Sustainable Development Principle
	<p>Assessment engagement and consultation provided a wealth of insight that will be used by the PSB to inform our future plans and decisions. However, we are committed to engaging and consulting with our communities on a regular basis to ensure that our activities remain appropriate and relevant, with particular focus upon reaching those who have not participated before, to ensure all voices are heard.</p>

What other plans and strategies have been considered when producing these objectives?

A wide range of information, legislation and statutory guidance was considered to shape priorities including national and regional legislation, plans and strategies listed in Appendix B.

Intersectional and cross-cutting impacts and opportunities were considered in developing the Well-being Plan.

Alongside this, the previous Well-being Plan was also of critical importance in shaping the well-being objectives, as there was a significant amount of work undertaken (as highlighted in the Plan's annual reports) to improve the well-being of the people of Powys. This plan also provided lessons learned which have been taken forward by the PSB during the planning process.

What other partnerships will help deliver these objectives?

There are a range of partnership arrangements that will help support delivery of the PSB Well-being Objectives. We will explore and develop how these partnerships interact with the PSB to ensure all are improving the well-being of the people of Powys whilst seeking to identify opportunities for additional PSB value.

The below provides an example of key identified partnerships which all have plans which will help support meeting the PSB Well-being Objectives:

- [Powys Regional Partnership Board](#)
- [Powys Community Safety Partnership](#)
- Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee
- [Growing Mid Wales](#)
- [Powys Nature Partnership](#)

What are the PSB’s well-being Objectives?

People in Powys live happy, healthy, and safe lives

What has the Future Trends report and the Future Generations Report identified? (Appendix C)

- Healthy life expectancy
- Health inequalities
- Living standards
- Educational attainment
- Incomes and income inequality
- Supporting an ageing population

Further evidence of supporting information used to form this objective from the Well-being Assessment can be seen within the Social, Economy, Environment, Culture and Community summaries within Appendix A.

How does this objective support the Well-being Goals?

Well-being Goal	How does this support the Well-being goals?
A prosperous Wales	<p>The PSB will seek to improve the resilience of people and nature to reduce climate impacts and cope with those that are unavoidable.</p> <p>Taking a whole system approach will help members of the PSB understand how its actions influence population health and the factors that determine health, for example in relation to obesity.</p>
A resilient Wales	<p>By protecting and growing the natural assets of Powys, enhancing biodiversity and promoting access to green and blue spaces, we will strengthen the resilience of people and nature.</p>
A more equal Wales	<p>When mapping the whole system of the county and engaging to understand what matters to people, we will seek to reach those who are seldom heard to ensure their voices are heard.</p> <p>Focusing upon young people to improve the system surrounding healthy weight means we will be looking to support the best start in life for all young people, irrespective of background.</p>

Well-being Goal	How does this support the Well-being goals?
A healthier Wales	Through our climate work, we will be improving the resilience of people and nature to cope with climate impacts that are unavoidable. By taking action collectively, this should help those who are experiencing anxiety related to the climate emergency. There are a range of physical and mental health benefits aligned to healthy weight, which would support happy, healthy lives.
A Wales of cohesive communities	Access to suitable spaces that support people to be active such as outdoor green spaces, safe roads for cycling, safe paths for walking and leisure and community facilities are important in encouraging physical activity, an important factor in maintaining good health. Improving access and affordability of fresh, seasonal and nutrient-dense food offers a range of ways to support people to eat more healthily.
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	Through engaging with a range of communities such as those who are Welsh language speakers, we will seek to understand what matters to them in being healthy and happy and use this to shape the future work of the PSB. We are also seeking to build upon the county's heritage, particularly its natural assets which are at risk due to the climate emergency, and encourage people to connect with its history and landscapes to engage in physical activity and promote mental health and well-being.
A globally responsible Wales	Improving access to and affordability of fresh, seasonal and nutrient-dense food is a priority, whilst also seeking to reduce the County's food mileage by supporting the development of local supply chains instead of exporting unseasonal goods. Access to fresh seasonal produce will support an environment in which people may eat more healthily.

Powys is a county of sustainable places and communities

What has the Future Trends report and the Future Generations Report identified?

(Appendix C)

- Internet usage and access
- Welsh Language

Further evidence of supporting information used to form this objective from the Well-being Assessment can be seen within the Social, Economy, Environment, Culture and Community summaries within Appendix A.

How does this objective support the well-being goals?

Well-being goal	How does this objective support the well-being goals?
A prosperous Wales	We will be acting as a territorial leader. We recognise communities as a key group of the whole system, and will seek to empower both individuals and communities to help inform the future of Powys, whilst supporting community based action and local economies.
A resilient Wales	We have committed to scaling-up carbon sequestration as part of the work of the PSB, increasing the space for nature to absorb carbon which will enhance our biodiverse natural habitat.
A more equal Wales	By enhancing Powys through our work in tackling the climate emergency, we will take our fair share of the action to decarbonise, in line with the Paris Agreement. Any decarbonisation will be approached as an equal and just transition, working to ensure that no-one is left behind within communities.
A healthier Wales	Whilst engaging with communities, we will seek to understand what matters to them, including their physical and mental health, and how they experience the wider system as part of taking a whole system approach. We will aim for communities to understand how they can play a role in the system, and seek to engage with them to be actively involved in shaping their health.
A Wales of cohesive communities	The PSB’s response will seek to act as a territorial leader, acting as agents for change through their respective organisations, whilst also being advocates within communities and bringing people together to

Well-being goal	How does this objective support the well-being goals?
	improve their understanding surrounding and responding to the climate emergency. Through this approach, diverse voices across Powys will be engaged based on their connection to the county to improve their communities and sense of belonging.
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	<p>Through engaging with a range of communities such as those who are Welsh language speakers, we will seek to understand what matters to them in living within their communities and use their voices to shape the future work of the PSB.</p> <p>We are also seeking to build upon the county’s heritage, particularly its natural assets which are at risk due to the climate emergency, and to encourage people to connect with its history and landscapes and be proud of the communities in which they live.</p>
A globally responsible Wales	By democratising well-being and encouraging community action in response to climate change, and influencing the system surrounding healthy weight, people will better understand the importance of these issues beyond Powys’ borders. As a county with a high number of visitors, both nationally and internationally, there is an opportunity for communities to share how they have been supported to improve their well-being by being involved within responding to the climate emergency.

An increasingly effective public service for the people of Powys

What has the Future Trends report and the Future Generations Report identified? (Appendix C)

- Public sector employment
- Online public services

Further evidence of supporting information used to form this objective from the Well-being Assessment can be seen within the Social, Economy, Environment, Culture and Community summaries within Appendix A.

How does this objective support the well-being goals?

Well-being goal	How does this objective support the well-being goals?
A prosperous Wales	Through the enhanced sharing of information, PSB members will be using their resources more efficiently, enabling better insight and increased effectiveness in decision-making. Greater peer support, networking, and the sharing of best practice will develop the skills for the sector and wider public.
A resilient Wales	Collaboration of expertise, drawing on the skills of Partners and the voices of Communities, will seek input into how to improve the natural environment. Increased access to a greater range of data will enable partners to develop longer term plans to meet current and future needs.
A more equal Wales	All public bodies and the wider community are invited to participate to contribute to this work, irrespective of any background factors. We will seek to engage and understand communities from all backgrounds, including seldom heard voices to influence our work.
A healthier Wales	Through the embedding of the whole system approach across PSB partners, there will be a wider understanding of how their actions influence areas such as physical and mental health.
A Wales of cohesive communities	Establishing dialogues with our communities and testing our understanding from the data will seek to improve the dynamic relationship between communities and PSB members.

Well-being goal	How does this objective support the well-being goals?
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	Throughout all work undertaken, we will ensure the Welsh language is treated equitably and provide opportunities to promote this. We will seek to actively reach Welsh speaking groups to understand what matters to them.
A globally responsible Wales	We are committed to joining the UN’s Race to Zero initiative as a PSB, becoming the first to do so.

What action is planned to achieve the well-being objectives?

To deliver our well-being objectives, we will need to undertake a series of steps. A step is a delivery mechanism, which may include a project, work focus, or board that helps us to make progress against our objectives. Three priorities have been identified as the most important focus to help achieve the Well-being Objectives:

- Responding to the Climate Emergency
- Taking a whole systems approach to healthy weight
- Shaping the future by improving our understanding of what matters to the people of Powys through evidence and insight

The areas of work are interconnected and will contribute to achieving all three well-being objectives.

		STEP		
		Climate Change	Healthy Weights	Evidence and Insight
WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES	People in Powys live happy, healthy and safe lives	●	●	●
	Powys is a county of sustainable places and communities	●	●	●
	An increasingly effective Public Service for the people of Powys	●	●	●

Responding to the climate emergency

What is the context?

The impacts of climate breakdown are happening sooner and at even lower temperatures than scientists predicted. The window of opportunity to maintain a liveable planet for humans and nature as we know it is closing very rapidly.

This is an emergency situation and the next five years will be critical.

What are the action plan aims?

This is a plan for Powys to:

- Take our fair share of the action to decarbonise, in line with the 2025 Paris Agreement
- Scale up carbon sequestration - increasing the space for nature to absorb carbon
- Adapt to climate impacts - improving the resilience of people and nature to cope with climate impacts that are unavoidable

Why is climate action in Powys important?

Action on climate is essential to achieve all three Powys PSB Well-being Objectives:

Objective 1: People in Powys will live happy, healthy, and safe lives

- People in Powys will be exposed to increasing climate risk which needs to be identified and mitigated to keep them safe.

Objective 2: Powys is a county of sustainable places and communities

- People in Powys consume significantly more than our fair share of global resources (including carbon), and the local natural world that we all depend upon is in steep decline
- Powys communities are more directly reliant on and impacted by the natural environment than other urbanised regions of Wales

Objective 3: An increasingly effective Public Service for the people of Powys

- People in Powys require and rely upon climate-informed public services and planning decisions for current and future generations

How does this step consider the Sustainable Development Principles?

Sustainable Development Principle	How does this step consider the Sustainable Development Principle?
Long Term	<p>Developing a Powys-wide evidence-based climate action plan across sectors will enable an understanding of the future threats and opportunities posed by climate change and the transition to a net zero economy. In particular it will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● enable strategic support to accelerate the development of the net zero goods and services needed in Powys in a way that benefits local people ● enable strategic planning and support for a just transition ● catalyse investment in the low carbon infrastructure, projects, organisations and practices needed in Powys ● inform how the nature and climate emergencies can be addressed together in a way that maximises nature recovery and supports people’s well-being
Integration	<p>Having a planned approach will enable work to be shaped in a way that contributes to achieving all the well-being Goals. Synergies will be actively identified and maximised between the three PSB well-being Steps, and the wider work of PSB organisations.</p>
Involvement	<p>Having a planned approach will enable high quality engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders and communities. This will enable plans to be informed and tailored to meet the needs of local communities including in particular people with protected characteristics and those facing socio-economic disadvantage.</p>
Collaboration	<p>A Climate Well-being Working Group has been set up to facilitate collaboration between Powys PSB members. It will also engage with wider statutory bodies and other stakeholders.</p>
Prevention	<p>Developing a Powys-wide climate risk assessment will enable a medium and long-term understanding of the anticipated impact of the climate crisis on the</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	How does this step consider the Sustainable Development Principle?
	well-being of people and nature. This will inform plans to reduce and manage risk.

How will the PSB deliver the Climate Well-being Action Plan?

Powys PSB will work towards joining the United Nations’ Race to Zero. This global initiative supports public bodies and organisations to take action aligned to the Paris Agreement, and to build a fairer, more resilient future.

Powys PSB’s work will be shaped by the five membership criteria of Race to Zero:

Pledge: to take concrete action toward or beyond a fair share of the 50% global greenhouse gas reduction needed by 2030, and to reach net zero by 2050 at the latest.

The fair share decarbonisation target will be based on expert advice and will include embodied emissions in the goods consumed in Powys, not just emissions produced directly in the county.

Plan: within 12 months develop an evidence-based emissions reduction plan in line with the pledge.

A set of research and analysis will be developed to understand the biggest climate interventions needed across Powys that will also bring well-being benefits for this and future generations of people, and for nature recovery. This action planning will involve engagement with local communities, businesses and third sector organisations to ensure actions are tailored to local needs. A pipeline of funding-ready projects will be developed with partners.

Proceed: take immediate action towards meeting the pledge.

Powys PSB will work in partnership across the county to scale up climate action, and to attract investment in the projects needed.

Publish: commit to report data and actions in relation to meeting the pledge, publicly and at least annually - feeding into the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Global Climate Action Portal.

Powys PSB will make public the analysis, plans, and delivery record to maximise transparency, accountability and public confidence.

Persuade: align lobbying and advocacy activities with net zero by proactively supporting climate policies consistent with the Race to Zero criteria.

Powys PSB will work with people, businesses, and organisations across the county and wider to make the case for a zero-carbon nature-friendly Powys that supports local well-being and a strong local economy.

How will the PSB add value?

There is currently no Powys-wide plan to respond to the climate emergency and maximise the benefits of a zero-carbon economy for local people and nature.

The public sector has a unique role to play in leading and enabling this strategic shift, working closely with local communities, businesses and third sector organisations to ensure plans are tailored to meet local needs.

By working collaboratively, the public sector can use its procurement power to support the skilling and scaling up of local zero-carbon goods and services needed to underpin a sustainable future local economy. A strategic approach to public service provision can enable a just transition and help to ensure no one is left behind.

PSB collaborative working can maximise efficiency in the use of public resources and can enable economies of scale.

Delivering the Climate Well-being Action Plan will build directly on and support county, regional and national workstreams, plans and strategies (see Appendix B).

A Whole System Approach to Healthy Weight

What is the context?

Obesity is a significant issue for individuals and for wider society and is one of the greatest challenges for health and social care services. In Powys, over one quarter of 4-5 year olds and over half of the adult population are an unhealthy weight. There is a strong link between obesity and deprivation, with the prevalence being higher in our most deprived areas. There is evidence that the gap between those in the most deprived and least deprived communities has widened over time.

Being overweight or obese increases the risk of developing a wide range of common and potentially preventable health problems including heart disease, type 2 diabetes, joint problems such as osteoarthritis, mental health issues such as anxiety and depression and some types of cancer. An unhealthy weight can also influence a range of factors that affect people's life-chances such as self-confidence, educational attainment, employability and sickness-related absence from school and work.

Unhealthy weight places a significant cost on the economy of Wales. Obesity has been estimated to cost the NHS in Wales over £73 million per annum. If rates of overweight and obesity continue to rise in line with current trends it has been estimated that the costs to society and the economy will be around £2.4 billion per year in Wales by 2050.

The factors that influence unhealthy weight lie for the most part outside of the health service. Health (including a healthy body weight) is influenced by the interaction of a range of factors which include individual factors such as age, sex, genetics, lifestyle and behavioural factors, social and community factors, and socio-economic, cultural and environmental conditions. The complexity of the obesity system means there is no simple solution to tackling obesity and that no single agency can tackle it alone. However, adopting an approach which seeks to understand the system as a whole offers a way forward.

What are the Action Plan aims?

The aims are to:

- engage with and bring together stakeholders who contribute to the local obesity system in Powys

- work collaboratively to identify points of leverage within the system to action sustainable system-wide change
- identify and test local solutions to tackling overweight and obesity at a system level

Why is Healthy Weight important?

Addressing the increasing levels of overweight and obesity in the population has the potential to contribute to each of the PSB's three well-being objectives:

Objective 1: People in Powys will live happy, healthy, and safe lives

- Tackling unhealthy weight has a clear link to this objective. Obesity is a leading contributor to many major long-term conditions including type 2 diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease including stroke, some types of cancer, kidney disease, obstructive sleep apnoea, gout, osteoarthritis and liver disease
- Being an unhealthy weight can impair well-being, quality of life and contribute to low self-esteem, poor self-image and low confidence levels
- Obesity lowers healthy life expectancy and high BMI is a large contributor to the number of years lived with disability
- Children living with obesity are more likely to become adults living with obesity and have a higher risk of morbidity, disability and premature mortality in adulthood
- Health and social problems normally seen in adults (such as type 2 diabetes, musculoskeletal conditions, low self-esteem and depression) are becoming more prevalent in children and young people as a result of the rise in childhood obesity
- Children who are obese are more likely to be bullied and to have higher levels of school absence with negative consequences for their learning and educational attainment

Objective 2: Powys is a county of sustainable places and communities

- Physical activity is an important factor in healthy weight and the environment has an important role to play in supporting people to be more active. Access to suitable spaces that support people to be active such as outdoor green spaces, safe roads for cycling, safe paths for walking and leisure and community facilities are important in encouraging physical activity
- Improving access and affordability of fresh, seasonal and nutritious food offers a range of ways to support people to eat more healthily

Objective 3: An increasingly effective Public Service for the people of Powys

- Taking a whole system approach to tackling unhealthy weight will help unite programmes of work and align strategic priorities
- A shift from looking at individual actions to addressing actions at a system level will increase the effectiveness across agencies and help facilitate positive changes at a population level

How will the PSB deliver this work?

A whole system approach involves a number of key steps which aim to understand the local system as a whole and its constituent sub-systems. Through engagement with strategic stakeholders we will identify one or more sub-system(s) to focus on and develop an action plan to achieve positive change by identifying and testing out local solutions. Engagement and partnership working are key.

- We will work closely with partner organisations and strategic stakeholders to map out and understand the local obesity system in Powys
- We will gather data and insight from partners and actively engage key organisations in Powys in agreeing our initial sub-system of focus
- We will develop a shared action plan to capture agreed actions and test out local solutions.
- A steering group will be established to coordinate and steer the work

How does this step consider the Sustainable Development Principle?

Sustainable Development Principle	How does the step consider the Sustainable Development Principle?
Long Term	Tackling overweight and obesity in Powys is a long-term goal. Taking a whole system approach will encourage long-term, sustainable changes. Benefits can be expected mostly in the medium to long-term although some may be seen in a shorter time-frame.
Integration	This programme forms part of the local implementation of the national obesity strategy Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales and has considerable scope for synergy with other PSB priorities. For

Sustainable Development Principle	How does the step consider the Sustainable Development Principle?
	<p>example, there is considerable potential for synergy and collaborative working in relation to:</p> <p>Climate emergency: Climate change and healthy weight are intrinsically linked. Access to healthy, affordable food, considering local food/food miles, reducing food waste, use of green and blue spaces for physical activity, active travel, planning are all areas that cross-cut both the climate change and healthy weight agendas.</p> <p>Evidence and Insight - An enhanced understanding of the well-being of our population will help to inform the whole system approach to healthy weight. Data and insight will help ensure work is tailored to meet the needs of the Powys population, particularly those in greatest need.</p>
Involvement	<p>The whole system approach aims to understand the strengths, levers, gaps and deficits that exist in the local system. It is a strengths-based approach that aims to mobilise and build on existing community assets to strengthen the system and make it more conducive to attaining and maintaining a healthy weight. The views of strategic stakeholders and partner organisations as well as local communities will be important in identifying these strengths and levers.</p>
Collaboration	<p>Whole system approaches bring organisations together to work on shared goals. The whole system approach to healthy weight is a national programme with many opportunities to draw on learning and expertise from other areas.</p>
Prevention	<p>Acting now is essential to halt the current trends in overweight and obesity. Current predictions show that obesity rates and the associated consequences for individuals and society are likely to worsen if action is not taken. This includes increasing economic</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	How does the step consider the Sustainable Development Principle?
	costs for health and social care and increasing pressures on society as a whole.

How will the PSB add value?

The high and increasing rates of people living with overweight or obesity present challenges and costs that impact on all public services and are not confined to the health and social care sectors. Many of the factors influencing body weight at the local level fall, at least to some degree, within the remit of PSB partner organisations. Examples include education and skills, employability, employment and working conditions, planning, transport and access to healthy food at school and in the workplace.

Similarly, the causes of and potential solutions to unhealthy body weight are largely socio-economic, cultural and environmental and for the most part are not within the control of health services. A coordinated, strategic partnership approach will therefore be required in order to reduce the rates of overweight and obesity in the population.

The Public Services Board will provide senior strategic leadership, strong leadership across the system, and long term commitment and delivered through incremental steps in collaboration with a range of partners. These factors are critical to the success of a whole system approach to tackling overweight and obesity.

Shaping the future by improving our understanding of what matters to the people of Powys through evidence and insight

What is the context?

Currently, there is a range of evidence and insight about Powys. This information, however, is held by individual organisations and only shared on request and does not allow for a robust understanding of the well-being of Powys. Examples of this sharing work can be seen in the [Well-being Information Bank](#). This step proposes the creation of a formal partnership to share information including data, analytics, research and engagement, and to create a “live, breathing” well-being assessment.

Collaboration with the people of Powys is of paramount importance in decision making in securing the future of the County. There is currently a range of engagement being undertaken by partners, which can result in potential engagement fatigue for the people of Powys (when they receive too many requests from too many organisations in a short period of time), resulting in their voices often not being heard in shaping the future of the county.

What are the action plan aims?

This action plan aims to:

- Build community conversations to involve people in the future of Powys
- Develop a shared understanding of Powys
- Raise awareness of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Why is Evidence and Insight in Powys important?

A shared understanding of our communities is imperative to the PSB meeting its well-being objectives as detailed below:

Objective 1: People in Powys will live happy, healthy, and safe lives

- The sharing of quantitative and qualitative data, alongside engagement activity will allow for the PSB and partner organisations to have an enhanced understanding of the well-being of members of the population
- Will allow for the PSB and organisations to understand what interventions are required to support people to live healthy, happy and safe lives

Objective 2: Powys is a county of sustainable places and communities

- This will allow for the PSB and partner organisations to have an enhanced understanding of the wider environment in which we live, improve our understanding of climate and nature, and various other place based themes such as crime, community resources, assets etc, and what the residents of Powys think we need to futureproof the county
- The establishment of dialogues with communities will support places to build upon their assets and strengths

Objective 3: An increasingly effective Public Service for the people of Powys

- The sharing of insight and evidence through better coordination, knowledge sharing, joint campaigns/working, project proposals, and the sharing of technical knowledge will ensure an increasingly effective public service for the people of Powys

How does this step consider the Sustainable Development Principle?

Sustainable Development Principle	How does this step consider the Sustainable Development Principle?
Long term	Understanding the situation in Powys using available data will help support the work of the PSB, with this information offset against the long term needs of the people of Powys demonstrated through community conversations.
Integration	<p>Understanding the impacts of climate change on Powys is of critical importance, through the usage of collective quantitative and qualitative data. It is also important to act as a territorial leader and use the engagement mechanisms above to engage with the people of Powys to provide climate leadership for the county, and use their voices to shape the work of this step.</p> <p>Quantitative and qualitative data will be needed in order to understand levels of overweight and obesity in Powys and to inform the whole system approach to healthy weight work. This step will also support community conversations as to how we can create and co-produce where possible the conditions to prevent this being a longer term issue.</p>

Involvement	This step aims to involve the people of Powys within this work as outlined within the activity below through the development of the voice of the people of Powys to inform the decision making of the PSB.
Collaboration	The foundation of this step's aim is to work together, both as PSB partners, and with the people of Powys, to understand what is important to the well-being of the county. Through working together, we will be able to work as partners, and alongside residents, to understand the situation and seek to co-produce means to help improve this.
Prevention	In order to shape the future and prevent issues from occurring, evidence and insight from partners and understanding what matters to the public is of critical importance. This will ensure that any decisions made reflect are as prevention based as possible.

How will the PSB add value?

The PSB can bring together a range of data from all partners, providing a wealth of evidence in understanding of our population, to ensure that decisions are made using the most current insights. There are opportunities to share engagement activities and gain a wider understanding of well-being in a more integrated manner, allowing for the creation of capacity to support more in depth community conversations around what matters, empowering the people of Powys to have their say in the future of the County beyond the confines of traditional engagement. We will be also looking to leverage these voices through Town and Community Councils, alongside the wider population of the people of Powys to support decision making for the PSB and its wider partners, and seek to create community capacity to democratise well-being.

This step aspires to extend beyond traditional PSB partners and engage a range of stakeholders, and support the development of knowledge and skills which could support potential employment and skills opportunities whilst also further expanding people's understanding of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

The central aim of this step is to create a holistic understanding of well-being and Powys, a county with a clear identity and heritage, to understand the needs of our residents including areas such as

its natural environment, a key asset due to the county's abundance of green and blue spaces, or the county's diverse people and rural towns and communities, and ensure that their voices are shaping the work of the PSB and its Partners.

How will the PSB deliver the evidence and insight action plan?

This step can be divided into three work streams which will interact with one another, alongside other PSB steps:

Community Conversations

- We will create a network between PSB partners and the wider public to share, collaborate, and co-ordinate engagement activity, with the aim to involve as many people as possible within the work of the PSB and shaping the future of Powys
- We will explore the formation of a Powys People's Assembly, endeavouring to represent as wide a range of our diverse population through language of choice, to act as a steering group for the work of Powys PSB, seeking to empower residents to participate in and influence decision making
- We will explore how people can use the arts and physical activity, such as accessing the natural environment, to understand what is important to people's well-being

Understanding Powys

- We will create a network between Partner's data colleagues and the wider public (where appropriate) to share data and analysis, and identify opportunities to collaborate to improve understanding of well-being
- We will seek to develop data and analysis related skills of PSB Partners, and the wider public, in turn supporting skills development through further training and working opportunities

Promoting "The Act"

- We will establish a means for smaller, more targeted workstreams to access PSB as easily as possible and harness the energy and additional value of the PSB
- We will promote the role and work of the PSB and Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, and seek to create opportunities to maximise its reach and raise the awareness of well-being and sharing best practice by establishing networks with other

existing Partnership arrangements, alongside other potential partners such as those within other sectors and industries

How has the Well-being Plan been developed?

A range of activities across the members of the PSB and public have been undertaken to develop this plan. However, this is not the end of the process - the Well-being Plan will evolve and respond to changes in context over the next five years.

Time Period	Activity
April 2020 - March 2022	A Well-being Assessment was undertaken to understand the situation in Powys. This was a key evidence base to inform the planning process. There was also an exercise of consolidating a range of engagement findings already gathered from Partners surrounding well-being.
June 2022	A workshop was held to identify key areas of focus and start to form the PSB's Well-being Objectives, and consider what the PSB could explore doing.
September 2022	A series of follow up workshops were held to refine and agree Well-being objectives, and identify the potential steps to help deliver these objectives. A joint online survey was undertaken alongside the Regional Partnership Board to provide a snapshot of well-being.
December 2022	The Future Generations Commissioner's Office provided advice related to the objectives and potential steps.
January 2023	The PSB prioritised the potential steps to be included in the Well-being Plan ahead of public consultation. A draft Well-being Plan was produced.
January - April 2023	A draft Well-being Plan was consulted on with the public. A summary of public responses can be seen in Appendix D. These findings largely supported the proposed well-being objectives and steps within the plan, whilst also identifying residents of Powys who would like to be further involved in the work of the PSB. Alongside this, the Future Generations Commissioner's Office, Natural

	<p>Resources Wales, Welsh Government provided responses to the consultation. The draft Plan was also scrutinised by a Scrutiny Committee (Appendix E).</p> <p>This consultation targeted a range of groups specifically, including children and young people who have also engaged creatively by submitting their art and poetry based on the theme <i>“What do you want the future of Powys to look like?”</i>. There have been submissions from young people across Powys.</p>
April - May 2023	The Well-being Plan has been developed and refined based on the feedback provided ahead of finalisation and approval by the PSB in June 2023.

Reviewing and monitoring

How will the well-being Objectives be monitored by the Public Services Board?

- Ongoing leadership and oversight by each workstream responsible officer
- Ongoing monitoring and delivery management within the working groups
- Formal quarterly monitoring via updates from each delivery lead at quarterly PSB meetings
- Formal quarterly monitoring and assurance-seeking via PSB Scrutiny
- Annual reporting against the progress made against the Well-being Plan
- Annual monitoring against the [Well-being of future generations: national indicators and milestones for Wales](#)
- Workstream leads also have a responsibility for highlighting concerns and issues to the PSB at the earliest opportunity, outside of the formal mechanisms identified above if appropriate

What does the proposed high-level governance structure look like?

- Strategic oversight and direction are provided by the PSB through the vision
- Scrutiny by members from all partners to seek assurance and provide constructive challenge to the PSB on progress, purpose, and impact
- There is an operational delivery workstream for each step, each of which will be led by a PSB member from a statutory organisation; they are the responsible officer and will lead the working groups. The responsible officer reports directly to the PSB
- The working groups will consist of the identified leads from PSB partner organisations and key officers who are responsible for delivering the objectives outcome. They will consider the performance of identified actions and will identify opportunities for further partnership

working and collaboration. The working groups report to the responsible officers of the relevant operational workstream

- The planning group will consist of officer representatives from members of the statutory partner organisations. The group will, as an equally shared responsibility of statutory partners, consider the mechanics of the PSB in meeting its statutory requirements and the aspirations of the Well-being Plan; there will not be a dedicated PSB Co-ordinator. The group provides operational support links between the PSB and delivery leads, and so it is suggested that attendees are knowledgeable in strategic planning, policy and/or partnership working to facilitate valuable collaborative working

Get involved

Powys Public Services Board (PSB) is committed to involving people and stakeholders from across Powys in developing and delivering Well-being Plans - the more tailored they are to local needs, the more impactful they will be.

You can track progression in delivering the Plans by viewing [Powys Public Services Board](#) reports.

The PSB has a Scrutiny Committee and its work is available to view here: [Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee](#)

If you would like to get involved in this work, want any further information or have any questions, there are many ways to get in touch:

Email: powyspsb@powys.gov.uk

Post: Powys Public Services Board Secretary, Powys County Council, County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, Powys. LD1 5LG.

Phone: 01597 826165

Appendix A - What did the PSB 2022 Well-being Assessment say?

The full Well-being Assessment for Powys, published in March 2022 is [here](#).

A summary of the findings from the Well-being Assessment is below.

Social

- 12% (16,154) of the population are unpaid carers. This is projected to have increased. There are more unpaid carers in south Powys, particularly the Ystradgynlais locality. (ONS, 2011)
- There has been a 16% increase in homelessness between 2019 and 2020 (from 527 to 621). Mostly single homeless presentations. We anticipate more families with dependent children to present due to the end of the furlough scheme. (Powys Wellbeing Information bank, 2021)
- 20% of people contacting Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations state loneliness and isolation as a reason for contact. 62% of these were female, an increase in demand is seen during the winter months. (PAVO, 2021)
- There are 8,871 housing association properties in Powys. (Housing PCC, 2021)
- 3,500 people are on the housing demand register, many require smaller accommodation (often 1 or 2 bedrooms), whilst others need larger homes. 22% of homes are in the Newtown locality. 48% have a poor energy EPC rating. (Housing PCC, 2021)
- 4,088 families live in absolute poverty, 31% (1,248) of these were lone parent households (Department for Work and Pension, 2019-20).
- The coronavirus pandemic has increased existing health inequalities. Deprived groups have been more vulnerable during lockdowns and declining income.
- There has been a 48% increase in children (1,601 to 2,371 children) eligible for Free School Meals over the past two years (compared with the rest of Wales). (Welsh Gov, 2021)

Economy

- 79.2% of people are economically active and 17.8% are self-employed. (ONS, Dec 2021)
- 5% of working-age people are unemployed (16-64 age group, Dec 2020). Llanidloes was the hardest hit locality, however all localities saw unemployment grow. (ONS, Dec 2021)
- Median weekly full-time earnings in Powys are £519 (Wales: £542, UK £586). (ONS, 2021). Powys has the lowest gross value added per hour worked in the UK (since 2008) (ONS,

2021). Powys has the lowest gross value added per hour worked in the UK (since 2008). (ONS, 2021)

- The average household income in Powys is £33,458 (Wales: £34,700, UK: £40,257). 55% of households in Powys earn below the Powys average (£33,458). (CACI, 2021)
- 93% (8,030) of businesses are micro-businesses (employing between 0-9 employees). 6% (550) small, 1% (65) medium-sized and 10 large businesses. (ONS, 2021)
- 12% of properties are unable to receive 10mb/s broadband. Highest amongst all Welsh local authorities (2020 Ofcom report). (OFCOM, 2020)

Environment

- Climate breakdown is having an increasing impact on local people, businesses and the natural environment including: extreme and unseasonal weather events including more frequent flooding and higher temperatures and winds.
- Energy: Powys has old and inefficient housing, with high reliance on fossil fuels.
- Transport: Active Travel and public transport is not an option for many people because of inadequate infrastructure and services. Many households run two cars, and a significant minority face well-being and economic impacts because of lack of access to transport.
- Water quality: many rivers in Powys are in moderate or even poor ecological status. The river Wye in particular, is suffering from an increase in nutrient pollution. There are two water pollution incidents per week in Powys.
- Air quality: Ammonia emissions originating from agricultural production continue to harm Nitrogen-sensitive habitat in rural areas and constitute a significant problem for biodiversity and human health (Bosanquet, 2021).
- All of Powys is within a 300m buffer area of greenspace, however not all sites have full legal access. Half of our population lives within 10km of an accessible greenspace site in Powys.

Culture and Community

- 19% of residents can speak the Welsh language, ranging from 54% in Machynlleth locality to 8.6% in Knighton and Presteigne. Most Welsh speakers are aged 5-15 years old. (ONS, 2011)
- 29% percentage within Powys are reported to volunteer
- Between April 2020 and March 2021, there number of 3-day emergency food aid parcels given to families with children in Powys increased by 197% (971 parcels) (Wales: 7%) when

compared to 2019/20 (Child Poverty Action Group, 2021). In total, 6,754 parcels were given in 2020/21 (84% increase since the previous year). (Child Poverty Action Group, 2021)

- Most of Powys is poor for access to services (just under half of Powys areas are in the worst 20% in Wales in terms of access to services. (Welsh Gov, 2019)
- Six areas in Powys are in the worst 20% in Wales for community safety (Llandrindod East/West, Newtown East, Newtown South, St Mary (Brecon), Welshpool Castle and Welshpool Gungrog). (Welsh Gov, 2019)
- Newtown East ranks 31st most deprived area¹ in Wales (of 1,909 areas¹ in Wales) (Welsh Gov, 2019)

Appendix B - Additional Plans and Policies

Social

- [Fair society, healthy lives: the Marmot Review: strategic review of health inequalities in England post-2010 \(2010\)](#)
- [Health equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On \(2020\)](#)
- [A Healthier Wales: Long Term Plan for Health and Social Care \(updated 2021\)](#)
- [Mental health delivery plan 2019 to 2022 \(updated 2021\)](#)
- [Healthy Wales, Healthy Weight](#)

Economy

- [Foundational economy: delivery plan \(2021\)](#)
- [UK strategy for financial wellbeing: delivery plan for Wales \(2022\)](#)
- [Procuring Well-being in Wales \(2022\)](#)

Environment

- [Welsh Government Environment and Climate Change Guidance](#)
- [Nature Recovery Action Plan \(updated 2020\)](#)
- [Beyond recycling \(2021\)](#)
- [Llwybr Newydd: the Wales transport strategy \(2021\)](#)
- [Net zero carbon status by 2030: public sector route map \(2021\)](#)
- [Net Zero Wales \(updated 2022\)](#)
- [Sustainable Farming Scheme \(updated 2022\)](#)
- [Powys Strategy for Climate Change \(Powys CC\)](#)
- [Mid Wales Area Statement theme Climate Change \(NRW\)](#)
- [Nature and Us Campaign \(NRW\)](#)
- [Public Sector Net Zero Carbon by 2030](#)
- [Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Management Plan](#)
- Powys PSB member Corporate plans

Culture and Community

- [A More Equal Wales – Socio-economic Duty \(2021\)](#)
- [LGBTQ+ Action Plan Consultation \(2021\)](#)

- [Cymraeg 2050 \(2022\)](#)
- [Anti-racist Wales Action Plan \(2022\)](#)

Overarching

- [Digital Strategy for Wales \(2021\)](#)
- [Growing Mid Wales: The Mid Wales Growth Deal, including:](#)
 - o [A Vision for Growing Mid Wales Strategic Economic Plan & Growth Deal Roadmap 2020](#)
 - o [Strategic Economic Priorities for the Mid Wales Region 2019](#)
 - o [Growing Mid Wales Partnership - Framework for Action 2016](#)
 - o [Mid Wales Energy Strategy Summer 2020](#)
 - o [Mid Wales Applied Research and Innovation Study Final Report](#)
 - o [GMW Hydrogen Study Assessment Report](#)
 - o [GMW Hydrogen Study Feasibility Report](#)
 - o [GMW Hydrogen Study Outcomes Summary](#)
- [The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, including:](#)
 - o [Future Generations Report \(2020\)](#)
- [Inequality in a Future Wales: Areas for action in work, climate, and demographic change \(2021\)](#)

Appendix C - Future Trends Report

Healthy life expectancy

While estimates vary significantly, prior to COVID-19, life expectancy increases in Wales look set to continue, although the rate of increase has slowed over the past decade ([Life expectancy estimates, all ages](#), Office for National Statistics). However, this increase in life expectancy has not translated into a higher 'healthy life expectancy' (the years someone spends in good health), which has decreased slightly in the past decade ([Health state life expectancy, all ages](#), Office for National Statistics). This trend is driven, in part, by inequalities faced by those living in the most deprived areas in Wales, who are most likely to report ill health ([Health state life expectancies by national deprivation deciles, Wales: 2017 to 2019](#), Office for National Statistics). Ageing populations are also more associated with higher levels of chronic health conditions and ill health ([Future of an Aging Population](#), Government Office for Science 2016; [Projections of older people with dementia and costs of dementia care in the UK, 2019-2040](#), London School of Economics and Political Science). However, older people tend to provide unpaid care and make valuable contributions to local communities.

Health inequalities

There are significant health inequalities affecting the lives of people in our society. Since the 1970s, multiple reports have highlighted the extent and impact of inequality in the UK and in Wales ([Health state life expectancy, all ages, UK](#), Office for National Statistics). There are significant differences in 'healthy' life expectancy between the most and least deprived. Analysis (based on 2016-2018 data) shows that the gap in life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas was 9 years for men and 7.4 years for women ([Past and projected period and cohort life tables, 2018-based, UK: 1981 to 2068](#), Office for National Statistics). However, the gap in healthy life expectancy between the most and least deprived was even greater, at 18.2 years for men and 19.1 years for women. Health inequalities can be deepened because of factors such as mental health problems, homelessness, and an inability to access healthcare.

Living standards

Living standards across different areas of Wales have become slightly more equal over time, although some progress has been reversed in recent years ([Chief Economist's Report 2020](#), Welsh Government). Since the 2008 financial crisis, the growth in both household incomes, and its main underlying driver productivity, in the UK have dropped well below the historic trend ([Labour](#)

[productivity time series](#), Office for National Statistics). Productivity, which is partly shaped by levels of education and skill, but also by population density and levels of urbanisation, is lower in Wales than in any other UK country or region except Northern Ireland. Flintshire, Wrexham, and the counties of south Wales have the highest rates of productivity in Wales, while Powys has the lowest productivity rate of all sub-regions in Britain ([What are the regional differences in income and productivity?](#) Office for National Statistics). The trend for median household incomes in Wales has followed the wider UK trend, although over recent years, median incomes in Wales have in broad terms been around 5 per cent lower than UK levels ([Chief Economist's Report 2020](#), Welsh Government).

Educational attainment

Mirroring the UK as a whole, the qualification profile of the Welsh population has improved markedly in recent years ([Examination results in schools in Wales, 2019/20](#), Welsh Government). However, an educational attainment gap at GCSE level remains, with Welsh students eligible for free school meals much less likely to achieve top grades than other students ([GCSE entries and results pupils in Year 11 by FSM](#), StatsWales). The number of young people not in education, training, or employment in Wales has been falling over the past decade, but the rate of decrease has reduced in recent years.

Incomes and income inequality

Changes in Welsh median incomes track the UK as a whole quite closely over the medium term. Like the UK, the improvement in Welsh living standards has been sluggish in recent years, largely in response to the weak underpinning productivity growth ([Chief Economist's Report 2020](#), Welsh Government). Income inequality across the UK widened sharply during the 1980s but has been broadly unchanged since (with some fluctuation). However, there was a modest increase in inequality across the UK over the period immediately before the pandemic, and some indications that one of the lasting effects of the pandemic will be to further increase inequality, as the disruption to education has impacted differentially (ibid). Children and young people from lower income backgrounds have been particularly affected and this may have lasting consequences. While income inequality has been broadly unchanged over the medium to longer term, relative poverty in Wales has, if anything, declined, though this decline occurred in the period prior to 2010 (ibid). Future prospects for relative poverty depend to a large extent on UK government policy decisions on taxes and benefits.

Supporting an ageing population

It is expected that Wales' ageing population will increase the demand for public services in the medium to long term. As populations age, there is likely to be a greater proportion of people experiencing chronic health conditions and multi-morbidities, both of which increase cost and resource pressures on health and social care services. Current projections estimate that to meet demand, expenditure on health will grow from 7.3 per cent of GDP in 2014-15 to 8.3 per cent in 2064-65 and from 1.1 to 2.2 per cent of GDP on long term care during the same period (Future of an Aging Population, Government Office for Science).

Projections show that within Wales and the UK as a whole, the old age dependency ratio, which gives an approximation of the number of people being supported by the working age population, will drop considerably over time until 2037 (Living longer and old-age dependency: what does the future hold? Office for National Statistics). This means that the number of those most likely to require publicly funded services will increase relative to the number of economically active people that are able to provide tax revenue.

Welsh language

Over time, the number of Welsh speakers in Wales is predicted to increase significantly. Projections based on 2011 census data, calculated in 2017 by the Welsh Government, estimated that there would be approximately 666,000 people aged three and over able to speak Welsh by 2050 ([Technical report: Projection and trajectory for the number of Welsh speakers aged three and over, 2011 to 2050](#), Welsh Government). This is equivalent to 21 per cent of the population and represents an increase of 100,000 Welsh speakers over the 40 year period. Taking into account policy assumptions in line with the Welsh Government's target to reach 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050 ([Cymraeg 2050: Welsh language strategy](#), Welsh Government), a separate 'trajectory' was produced indicating that this figure could be surpassed by 2030. Under this trajectory, the overall increase is assumed to be driven by younger age groups and maintained through future generations.

More recent data from the Annual Population Survey however, indicates that even the most ambitious estimates are currently being exceeded, with a reported 883,300 Welsh speakers aged 3+ in 2021 ([Welsh language data from the Annual Population Survey: July 2020 to June 2021](#), Welsh Government). Despite a drop from 896,900 in 2019, the longer-term trend would suggest that the target of 1,000,000 Welsh speakers will be achieved far ahead of 2050, possibly even being surpassed within the next 10 years. It should be noted, however, that the National

Census and Annual Population Survey use different sampling methods and are not therefore directly comparable. 2021 Census shows 16% (21,090) of Powys residents ages 3+ are classed as Welsh speakers. This is a **2% decrease** since 2011. (18%, 23,681). This was the 2nd largest fall among Local Authorities, Carmarthenshire had the largest decrease. There has been a decrease in Welsh speakers in Powys. The largest age band to decrease is 3-15-year-olds, this has **decreased by 7%**.

The ability to speak Welsh is most common among young people in Wales, with reported rates highest among those aged 19 and under. The proportion declines as respondents get older, slightly increasing for those aged 85 and over ([Welsh language use in Wales - initial findings: July 2019 to March 2020](#), Welsh Government). While the proportion of those able to speak Welsh is highest in north Wales local authorities, the rate of growth of speakers is highest in local authorities in south and southeast Wales. Almost all Welsh speakers in Wales are also fluent English speakers.

Internet usage and access

Internet usage is increasing across Wales and the UK as a whole. The proportion of adults in Wales who do not use the internet has dropped to around 10 per cent ([Internet Users](#), Office for National Statistics). However, the proportion of people aged 75 and over in the UK who do not use the internet is increasing. This age group also uses the internet 'on the go' far less than other adults – a trend which decreases with age ([Exploring the UK's Digital Divide](#), Office for National Statistics). Despite an overall increase in internet usage, a 'digital divide' remains between those with and without the skills and access to information and communications technologies ([National survey for Wales: Results viewer](#), Welsh Government). This persisting divide can exacerbate social and economic inequalities for the digitally excluded ([Providing basic digital skills to 100% of UK population could contribute over £14 billion annually to UK economy by 2025](#), The Centre for Economics and Business Research). The most digitally excluded people in the Welsh population are those aged 75 and above.

Public sector employment

Following a decade of decline, the number of people employed within the Welsh public sector has increased to its highest ever point, growing 13.3 per cent in recent years to 30.6 per cent of Wales' total workforce ([Employment in the public and private sectors by Welsh local authority and status](#), StatsWales). It is unclear whether the trend will continue as recent workforce increases

may be attributable to the public sector's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, over the past decade, the public sector's productivity has been on an increasing trend ([Public service productivity: total, UK, 2018](#), Office for National Statistics).

Online public services

The way in which people access public services is changing. The trend in increasing internet use has also led to a growth in the online use of public services, and a general increase in obtaining information, downloading, and submitting of official forms online ([Internet skills and online public sector services: April 2019 to March 2020](#), Welsh Government). The latest evidence suggests that 77 per cent of respondents in Wales have used at least one public service website within the last 12 months, those aged 35-54 are most likely to access public service websites, and those aged 65 and over least likely ([National survey for Wales: Results viewer](#), Welsh Government).

Appendix D - Public Consultation Summary Findings Report

This consultation ran from 27th January to 19th April 2023 and received 235 responses.

Full verbatim answers to all open questions will be shared with the lead officer working on the Well-being Plan on conclusion of the consultation period.

Please note: Not all questions have been answered by all respondents and the two Welsh responses are included with the below for ease of analysis.

Part 1 - Demographic Questions

Why do we want to know this?

Providing this information will help us to understand who has contributed towards this survey.

In order to help us ensure that we are providing services fairly to everyone who needs them, we would be grateful if you could answer a few more questions about yourself.

Q1. How do you define your gender?

Female	128
Male	85
Non-binary	4
Transgender	0
Prefer not to say	10
Other (please state if you wish to)	1

The respondent who selected 'other' chose not to define their gender in the open text box.

Q2. How old are you?

Under 16	1
16-24	5
25-34	15
35-44	29
45-54	49
55-64	66
65-74	43
75-84	9
Over 85	2
Prefer not to say	13

Q3. What is your sexual orientation?

Bisexual	10
Gay/Lesbian	5
Heterosexual/Straight	185

Prefer not to say	26
Other (please state if you wish to):	5

The respondents that selected 'other' included:

- This question is an invasion of privacy
- Heterosexual
- Asexual
- Yes I'm a woman who is married to a man!!!! Don't complicate things!!!! A plug goes into a socket am that works very well!!!! Thanks 😊!!!!

Q4. What is your ethnic group? Choose one option that best describes your ethnic group or background.

Asian or Asian British: Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Chinese, Any other Asian background	0
Black, African, Caribbean, or Black British: African, Caribbean, Any other Black, African or Caribbean background	0
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean, White and Black African, White and Asian, Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background	2
White: Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish, or British, Irish, Gypsy, Roma or Irish Traveller, Any other White background	210
Prefer not to say	15
Other (please state if you wish to):	4

The respondents who selected 'other' described their ethnic group as:

- Human

- Bermudian
- White Olive Welsh Great Britain

Q5. What is the first half of your postcode? This will help us to understand which areas of Powys have taken part in the survey.

The following postcodes were given in response to this question:

LD1	25	NP8	6	SY17	5
LD2	10	SA9	12	SY18	7
LD3	34	SA10	1	SY19	2
LD5	2	SA31	2	SY20	7
LD6	6	SY5	1	SY21	22
LD7	13	SY10	18	SY22	10
LD8	4	SY15	11	CF44	1
HR3	11	SY16	12		

Q6. How many people live in your household?

1	44
2	106
3	40
4	21

5+	11
Prefer not to say	8

Q7. Do you own or rent your accommodation?

Owned outright	115
Being bought on mortgage	62
Rent from local authority	12
Rent from housing association	9
Rent from private landlord	18
Prefer not to say	11
Other (please state if you wish to):	3

The respondents that selected 'other' included:

- It is a farm so bank loan
- Live with parent
- Live with my partner and his family who own the house. I pay money once a month towards upkeep

Q8. Are you the Council Tax payer in your household?

Yes	188
No	23

Prefer not to say	17
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Q9. If yes, what Council Tax band is your property in?

A	10
B	15
C	30
D	44
E	38
F	13
G	5
H	3
Not known/Unsure	10

Part 2 - Well-being Plan Questions

Q10. What does living a happy, healthy, and safe life mean to you?

This question had 231 responses, the top words in the open comments included:



Q11. What do you think are the most important steps that we need to take to help support the people of Powys to live happy, healthy, and safe lives?

This question had 230 responses, the top words in the open comments included:



Q12. What does a county of sustainable places and communities mean to you?

This question had 224 responses, the top words in the open comments included:



Disagree	36
Strongly disagree	27

Q16. If you have answered Disagree/Strongly disagree please explain more:

This question had 75 responses; answers included:

- Doesn't mention biodiversity / nature emergency or much on shared prosperity. Doesn't focus on main strengths - natural resources and communities - doesn't address Montgomeryshire bias
- This has been spoken of so often! It's just that! A paper exercise to make people think they are not paying their council tax for nothing!
- I think it is too focused on business and tourism and a wealth-generation, trickle-down approach. More focus is needed on community needs, poverty eradication, and more explicit commitment about how the aims will be reached. It reads like a plan for wealthy white people living comfortably in nice houses.
- Nothing will happen I expect
- Fantastic ambitions, but so far very little evidence on HOW any of these objectives are likely to be achieved. For example, access to better preventative healthcare is a positive objective but this is against a backdrop of dozens of unfilled vacancies in our healthcare system, so what is going to be done to turn this around?
- I don't wish to be overly critical, but it is very difficult to identify what the plan is proposing to do. All I can see in the 37 page document is a few paragraphs within page 19 -21 that refer to how the PSB can add value. They aren't very specific and are difficult to measure. An action plan with SMART targets would be helpful. Finally, and again, not wishing to be overly critical I did find this survey to be rather odd. I had expected specific questions about whether respondents agreed with the three objectives and the actions proposed to pursue them.

Q17. If you would like to be involved in a future focus group around this topic, please let us know

Yes	96
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No	128
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Q19. If yes... Please provide your name and preferred contact method:

This question had 92 responses; the contact details are not included in this report for data protection but will be shared with the lead officer working on the Well-being Plan.

Appendix E - Scrutiny Recommendations

ID	Recommendation	Status	Comments
R1	Background data from well-being assessment - is there an opportunity to look at trends within Plan?	Reject	The document links to the Well-being Assessment and clearly indicates this is an at a glance summary, with the Assessment offering the more comprehensive analysis.
R2	Slightly Negative document in terms of contextual information presenting challenges- is there an opportunity to build upon more of the strengths of the County?	Partially accept	The document has been updated where possible to also identify the strengths of the County, but remains balanced based upon the challenges faced.
R3	Need to demonstrate within the plan how this meets well-being goals	Accept	This is aligned to feedback received from the Future Generations Commissioners Office and Welsh Government. The Plan has been updated to explicitly identify the contribution towards the well-being goals.
R4	Monitoring arrangements - to be more explicit throughout of indicators and annual report	Reject	This Plan already outlines the monitoring arrangements via a detailed section surrounding the in-year arrangements and links to well-being indicators.
R5	Action Plans to be incorporated within the document	Accept	An overview of what each step is looking to deliver has been included within the Plan.

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BRECON TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

FOREWORD

This is Brecon Town Council's Annual report detailing its work carried out in 2022-23 and illustrating the well-being objectives contributed to this year, as well as providing some general information about the Council.

THE COUNCIL

Brecon has 15 Town Councillors in 4 wards:

St David Ward:	Councillor Steve Morgans Councillor David Meredith Councillor Sian Drinan
St Mary Ward:	Councillor Charlotte Walton Councillor Trish Fretten Councillor Mark Perry Councillor Liz Rijnenberg Councillor Nigel Kilgallon
St John Ward East:	Councillor Neil Stone Councillor Chris Walsh Councillor John Powell
St John Ward West:	Councillor Marie Matthews Councillor Rob Thomas Councillor Matthew Dorrance Councillor Michaela Davies

Contact details for Councillors can be found on Brecon Town Council's website at <https://brecontowncouncil.org.uk/councillors/>

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Brecon Town Council has three Committees as follows:

Planning Guildhall and Staffing Committee

This Committee considers planning applications within the Brecon Town boundary received by the National Park Authority and is also responsible for the Guildhall and all employment matters relating to members of staff working for Brecon Town Council. It also deals with Civic matters such as the Mayoral robes and regalia and Twin Towns.

Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee

This Committee is responsible for administering the Town Council's grant scheme and awarding where appropriate. Its duties also include procurement and management of all

contracts and services commissioned by Brecon Town Council and review and monitoring of contracts and services for best value and quality control purposes. This Committee also deals with all matters relating to Visit Brecon (except staffing).

Environment and Events Committee

This Committee is responsible for managing Camden Road Park, Llanfaes Park, Beacons Park open space and Maendu Well, as well as the planters in the town centre. It works in partnership with other organisations and agencies in relation to environmental matters.

It is also responsible for events that are organised by Brecon Town Council including Brecon With Bells On, Remembrance Sunday, events at the bandstand, and Civic events such as the ceremonial AGM, the Mayor’s Civic Sunday and the annual Gurkha Parade.

The Environment and Events Committee is also responsible for managing fishing rights on the River Usk between Llanfaes Bridge and Gwennies Lane.

This Committee is supported by two volunteer water bailiffs and three co-opted volunteer members of the public who all bring their skills and knowledge to assist the Committee in its work.

Committee Membership 2022/23:

Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee	Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee	Environment and Events Committee
Councillor C Walsh Councillor D Meredith Councillor R Thomas Councillor C Walton Councillor M Matthews Councillor S Drinan Councillor L Rijnenberg Councillor M Perry Councillor N Stone Councillor T Fretten	Councillor N Kilgallon Councillor T Fretten Councillor M Dorrance Councillor M Davies Councillor S Morgans Councillor N Stone Councillor C Walsh Councillor D Meredith Councillor J Powell Councillor M Perry	Councillor C Walton Councillor M Matthews Councillor N Kilgallon Councillor M Dorrance Councillor S Drinan Councillor J Powell Councillor R Thomas Councillor S Morgans Councillor L Rijnenberg Councillor M Davies

THE TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk is appointed by the Council under section 112 Local Government Act 1972 and is the proper officer of the Council. The Town Clerk carries out a varied role, duties of which include legal and financial guidance and record keeping; project management; research; implementation of Council’s decisions; staff management and administration. The Town Clerk is also responsible for the internal management and organisation of the Council.

Brecon's Town Clerk, Mrs Fiona Williams, was appointed in 2014, lives in Brecon with her family, and enjoys travel and keeping active.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

Brecon Town Council appoints up to two individuals to be Community Youth Representatives who are over the age of 11 but under the age of 18, and are considered by the Council to be suitable to represent the interests of those individuals under the age of 18 who live, work or receive education or training in the Brecon Town Council area.

The Council appointed its first two Youth Representatives in April 2021. Their term of office has now ended and the Council is very grateful for their support, input and assistance during the development of this scheme. In March 2023 a new Youth Representative was appointed and we look forward to working with them in the forthcoming municipal year. There is presently a vacancy for a second position, with recruitment underway.

FINANCES

In 2022/23 Brecon Town Council's income was £597,264 including the precept of £562,000. The expenditure for the year was £529,669. Further details can be found about the Council's finances at www.brecontowncouncil.org.uk

LOCAL WELLBEING PLAN

Section 40 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places a duty on certain Town Councils to take all reasonable steps towards meeting the local objectives in the local well-being plan that has effect in their area.

Powys has developed a wellbeing plan which can be accessed at <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/5789/Towards-2040---the-Powys-Well-being-Plan> and identifies four local objectives:

- People in Powys will experience a stable and thriving economy ("economy")
- People in Powys will enjoy a sustainable and productive environment ("environment")
- People in Powys will be healthy, socially motivated and responsible ("healthy")
- People in Powys will be connected by strong communities and a vibrant culture ("communities")

Each of Brecon Town Council's Committee Chairs have prepared an annual report for that Committee, as set out below, and the Committee's work has been colour coded illustrating where each of the above four local objectives has been contributed to.

ENVIRONMENT AND EVENTS COMMITTEE

The Environment and Events Committee is responsible for managing Camden Road Park, Llanfaes Park, Beacons Park open space and Maendu Well, as well as the planters and parasols in the town center. It works in partnership with other organisations and agencies in relation to environmental matters.

It is also responsible for events that are organised by Brecon Town Council including Brecon with Bells On, Remembrance Sunday, events at the bandstand, and Civic events such as the ceremonial AGM, the Mayor's Civic Sunday and the annual Gurkha Parade.

The Environmental and Events Committee is also responsible for managing fishing rights on the River Usk between Llanfaes bridge and Gwennies Lane.

The Committee is supported by two volunteer water bailiffs and two co-opted members of the public and the newly appointed Youth Representative from the Town Council.

Fishing Committee ("environment") ("healthy") ("communities") ("economy")

The Town Clerk continues to be the Secretary for the Fishing Association. Written reports from the Water Bailiffs have not been submitted this year.

- Angling still remained a popular pastime during 2022 and ticket sales remain high on the Town Council stretch of the river.
- The tracking of salmon smolt continued this year, invaluable information about the environment and the migration of the salmon can be gathered this way.
- Bank clearance at certain fishing runs have been requested and the Committee is seeking guidance from the Wye and Usk Foundation.
- The Lone Working Risk Assessment for Bailiffs and Anglers was reviewed and amendments were made.
- The improvements to the disabled fishing bay is an ongoing project.

Civic Events ("environment") ("healthy") ("communities") ("economy")

- The Annual General Meeting and Mayoral installation was held in the Y Gaer Courtroom, due to Covid restrictions.
- The Best of Brecon Awards, which replaced the Mayor's Voluntary Organisation Civic Reception, celebrated the work of volunteers in the community and was able to take place in the Guildhall. Although social distancing rules at that time prevented everyone attending, the event was recorded and an edited version was posted on social media for others to view.
- The Gurkha Parade was at last able to take place in the town centre and was very much enjoyed by the large gathering of the community.
- Civic Sunday was able to take place, with afternoon tea at Llanfaes park.
- A wreath laying ceremony at the cenotaph in St Mary's took place on the Friday before Remembrance Sunday at the Cathedral.
- The Civic Guest list was reviewed and approved with additions and removals noted.

Events (“environment”) (“healthy”) (“communities”) (“economy”)

- The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebration took place at the bandstand, with the lighting of a beacon to finish. It was a well attended event and enjoyed by all ages of the community.
- Another successful busking month took place in July with several pitches throughout the town. The project has now been passed to a local group to continue running it.
- The new Christmas lights were installed, bringing fresh Christmas cheer.
- Brecon With Bells On was able to take place in the town centre again and was a huge success with a central stage, market stalls, Santa in the Vaults and a local band to close the event. The day was enjoyed by everyone.
- There was a small reception for the retiring Macebearer Ray Morgan who has served 40 years with the Town Council.
- A working group has been set up to hold a Pride event at the King George playing field in September, a consultation will be taking place in the next few weeks in order to obtain community engagement.
- The Gurkha Parade will take place as per usual arrangements.

Environment (“environment”) (“healthy”) (“communities”)

The Brecon Town Council continues to work within the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, which imposes a duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of the Council's functions and in doing so promotes the resilience of the ecosystem.

- The Biodiversity Conference was attended and a report submitted to the committee. It was agreed to explore the further proposed actions, such as continuing to use greener products, for planting to be carried out using peat free soil, and allowing grass edges to grow longer. This is within guidance received from One Voice Wales concerning the Importance of Community and Town councils in Building Resilient Spaces for nature.
- The S6 Action Plan which is: The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Action Plan, was reviewed and the suggested additions were approved for publication.
- All necessary Risk Assessments have been undertaken this year at the Camden road Park, Llanfaes Skate Park and Park and Maendu Well.
- Through the support of funding and other grant schemes two parks were improved and developed; Priory Park had a zip wire and play equipment for smaller children was installed. Through consultation with the residents and neighbours of Bryn de Winton a community garden was made with raised herb pots, a willow tunnel and willow wigwam. A large bench has also been installed for the community to enjoy the views down the valley.
- Work to improve the pond at Maendu Well was undertaken this year, with the advice from the Well group and the BBNPA. Excess weed has been removed and the pond has been dug out for a more productive environment. Several ash trees were also cut to prevent ash dieback, the branches left for the wildlife.
- A mixture of fruit trees have been planted in Llanfaes park, supported by the residents to mark the beginning of Women’s Month.

- A working group has been set up regarding the hanging baskets and parasols and the improvement of the town centre planters. New parasols have been purchased. Smaller versions were decided on and these will be seen throughout the town.
- Swift boxes have been installed in several locations, one on the Guildhall has been fitted with a camera and a Councillor has donated a bird caller which will soon be fitted to increase the chances of the boxes being used.
- The Green Spaces working group has started work again on the Skatepark/Pump track project. This will be an ongoing project with community engagement.
- A new high quality seesaw has been installed in Llanfaes park to replace the previous one which had come to the end of its lifespan.
- The outside disabled friendly table tennis, that had been an ongoing project for the Committee, was installed at Llanfaes Park and is enjoyed by many people from the community.
- New play equipment is to be purchased for Newton Green Park which has funds for the improvements in this current and next financial years budgets. The options are being looked at by a working group.
- Bunting in the same colour and design as last year has been installed in the town to enhance the streets.
- New recycling bins have been purchased and installed at Llanfaes Park and Camden Road Park.
- The Environment and Events Committee has set up a working group to look at Art Installations in Tredgar Street and other areas of the town. Work is ongoing in producing a large plastic bottle dome, dragon trail and deckchair street art.
- An open air event to commemorate the King's Coronation has been planned for the bandstand; with an Elvis tribute act and other community groups appearing throughout the day.
- A request to set up 'Friends of the Groves and Promenade' group has been proposed; this will be a community driven group, supported by the Committee and Town Council.
- Brecon has been chosen to be at the forefront of recycling innovation with the Digital Deposit Return Scheme and will test a new digital method of tracking recycling using a mobile phone.

Events to come: ("environment") ("healthy") ("communities")("economy")

- The Best of Brecon Awards will be held at Y Gaer this year with a more relaxed set up.
- The works on the Guildhall will have been completed by the time the Gurkha parade takes place in June.
- Planning has already started for Brecon with Bells On with a magical theme.
- Pride event in September

Conclusion

The Environment and Events Committee has had a very busy but productive year, through the guidance of Fiona and Rhys and the support from Alex the Committee has been able to

work through the various agencies. Although the Committee meetings take place on Zoom there is always a lot going on in the background with all the working groups.

Thank you to all Committee Members of the Environment and Events and a big thank you to the outgoing Youth Representative from the Town Council for all he had to offer and welcome to the new Youth Rep. The Committee is looking forward to new ideas and challenges going forward into the next year.

Councillor Marie Matthews

20th April 2023

PLANNING GUILDHALL AND STAFFING COMMITTEE

The Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee (PGSC) considers planning applications received by the National Park Authority and is responsible for the upkeep of the Guildhall and all members of staff working for Brecon Town Council.

During 2022-23 the PGSC has conducted all scheduled meetings and business via zoom. Minutes of all meetings are published on the Brecon Town Council (BTC) website which contains details of how members of the public can access minutes or join a meeting.

Planning Applications and Decisions of Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA)

The Committee has considered Planning Applications throughout the year with the opportunity to submit comments to BBNPA.

A number of building works have been scheduled at The Guildhall throughout the year and liaison has taken place with the BBNPA Listed Buildings Consent officer to ensure that any works meet listed building requirements. ("environment")

GPSC submitted an application to BBNPA for a Tree Protection Order (TPO) to be placed on a Japanese Dogwood Tree which is situated outside the Old Library on Ship Street Brecon. Although the tree is currently within Brecon Conservation Area the PGSC felt that a TPO would provide additional protection. BBNPA confirmed in June 2022 that the owner was to be served with a notice of the intention to serve a TPO which would allow a six-month window for objections. ("environment") ("healthy") ("communities")("economy")

BBNPA was offered grant funding for a Canals, Community and Wellbeing Project to improve access to green space within the canal corridor. Members of PGSC provided BBNPA with input on some of the proposed improvement works within the area covered by BTC. Members also provided input on other potential improvements although no further funding is available at this point. ("environment") ("healthy") ("communities")("economy")

Training Plan

A training plan has been set in place by the Town Clerk to ensure that all new members complete the basic training requirements and that returning members are able to refresh. This includes Induction to the Council, Code of Conduct and Financial Regulations.

First Aid Training and Manual Handling was organised for all staff and members in Autumn 2022.

The Town Clerk holds an up to date training record on all staff and council members. ("environment") ("healthy")

Annual Appraisals

Appraisals have been completed with all members of staff. These took place in January with meetings being held between staff members, the Town Clerk, and the Chair of PGSC. Training and development opportunities were discussed with all staff and new objectives set for 2023-24.

The Mayor and Chair of PGSC followed the same process for the Town Clerk with objectives set for the year and development opportunities identified. ("environment") ("healthy") ("communities") ("economy")

Staffing/Recruitment

Recruitment for an Innovations Officer to be based with the Guildhall Team was placed on hold and will be reviewed in 2023-24. This is to allow assessment of the combined skill set of the current team before final decisions are made.

Recruitment is underway for a Macebearer following the retirement of Mr. Raymond Morgan MBE who served for 40 years.

Health and Safety

1 Annual legionella risk assessment was undertaken at The Guildhall and public conveniences. ("environment") ("healthy")

2 A review of the fire risk assessment for The Guildhall was undertaken and signed off with a request being made to the Fire and Rescue Authority for a visit to be made. ("environment") ("healthy")

Repairs and Refurbishment

A comprehensive structural report was commissioned to assess the fabric of the Guildhall in 2021-22, following signs of damp and water ingress. Although this concluded that the building was sound some remedial work was identified. The engineer provided plans of the work needed so that enquiries could be made with BBNPA, contractors approved and scaffolding erected. Due to the time required to carry out the identified work and to follow the required process to appoint building contractors it was agreed to postpone the work until Spring 2023.

Ongoing communication continued to take place between the Surveyor, Building Contractor and BTC to ensure that work remained on track. Scaffolding was erected in early April 2023, and it is anticipated that work will be completed by 31st May 2023. During the period of works The Guildhall will be closed for public functions. ("environment") ("healthy") ("communities") ("economy")

Stage Works

A routine electrical inspection of the Guildhall Stage identified repair work and adjustments in relation to the load bearing capacity of stage curtains and lighting bars. A structural engineer was commissioned to check the feasibility of proposed repairs and BBNPA was consulted to ensure all listed building requirements were followed. Contractors commenced work in March 2023. In addition to improving safety the works have improved the quality of the facility which will benefit performers and audiences. ("environment") ("healthy") ("communities") ("economy")

Energy Saving

BBNPA (Sustainable Development Fund) have developed a match funded opportunity for Community Buildings to improve their energy efficiency. Brecon Town Council applied to be part of this programme and was accepted into the second round. Our building was inspected by a representative of Severn Wye Energy (SWE) and our energy bills assessed to identify ways to reduce usage. A report was prepared by SWE and reviewed by members of PGSC. This resulted in match funding being used to deliver loft insulation; draught proofing; valves to improve radiator efficiency. ("environment") ("healthy") ("communities") ("economy")

PGSC is continuing to work to deliver the conversion of halogen/fluorescent lighting to LED in line with legislation.

Electrical Inspection

An electrical inspection has been completed during 2023 at The Guildhall and a valid safety certificate issued. Financial investment will be required for some future improvement works and plans are in place to accrue funds. Repairs have been completed on emergency lighting.

Cenotaph

A review of the Cenotaph took place in March and the maintenance plan was updated with works identified. These are currently being completed.

Purple Plaque – Frances Hoggan

A purple plaque to commemorate Frances Hoggan's achievement was unveiled in Brecon in Spring 2023. Frances Hoggan was the first British woman to receive a doctorate in medicine and the first female doctor to be registered in Wales. PGSC was approached with a request to provide a reception at The Guildhall following the unveiling and this was subsequently agreed and took place. ("communities") ("economy") ("environment")

Policy Review

The Town Clerk and PGSC undertook a review and approval of the following policies:

Grievance Policy

Pensions Policy (in progress)

TOIL (in progress)

Visit Brecon – Staffing Element

Visit Brecon (VB) has undergone a significant change in staffing profile during the last 12 months which has provided an opportunity for a period of review and consolidation. We have a new team of staff and some resolute long-term volunteers working alongside new recruits. It has been recognised that periodically we need to hold open events for our volunteers where they can join council members and staff to share ideas and their views on how Visit Brecon works. This also provides an opportunity to thank them for their service. Two such events were held in 2022-23 with the most recent in December, with the invitation extended to anyone interested in becoming a volunteer with VB. The recently appointed Coordinator provided an overview to attendees of the work of the VB team.

Work to improve Social Media platforms and in particular our Events Diary is ongoing and has presented some platform challenges. (“economy”)(“environment”)(“communities”)(“healthy”)

Swift Boxes

Last summer, the newly installed swift boxes on the Guildhall, including a camera box, were not occupied, but this is not unusual in the early years after installation. The nest boxes are an attempt to help mitigate the decline of the swift population in Wales and the rest of the UK following the formation of a Brecon swift group. In April 2023, a bird caller will be installed near the camera box, as this is known to increase the chances of the box being inhabited. The caller was donated to the council by one of its Members. (“environment”)

Cross Committee Activity

Members from all BTC committees have worked together on some key projects during 2022-23. Some examples are specified below:

- Brecon with Bells On
- Climate Change Strategy
- Coronation Celebrations

The Town Clerk has again managed a range of projects in addition to the day-to-day functioning and maintenance of the Guildhall. She has managed staff supervision and appraisal requirements, ensuring that all legal, financial, and statutory requirements of Brecon Town Council are met. As a committee we are appreciative of the work of all our Guildhall and Visit Brecon staff. We are particularly pleased that new team members have

settled into their posts and are bringing new skills and perspectives to our work. ("economy") ("environment") ("communities") ("healthy")

Councillor Liz Rijnenberg Chair of PGSC
Councillor Rob Thomas Vice-Chair of PGSC
April 2023

FINANCE AND COMMISSIONING OF CONTRACTS COMMITTEE

Introduction

In 2022-23 Brecon Town Council has an annual precept of £562,000 which is managed through the Town Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) and the Council's Finance, Commissioning & Contracting Committee.

The Committee membership for 2022/23 is detailed earlier in this report. This meets on a monthly basis (with exception to August and December) to review the Council's financial activities. This includes the development of the Council's annual budget in conjunction with the RFO.

The accounts are inspected by an internal auditor and externally audited via the Welsh Audit Office. It was pleasing to receive another unqualified audit from our external auditors for 2021/22. This means that Brecon Town Council can make arrangements to implement the General Power of Competency. ("environment") ("healthy") ("communities") ("economy")



Work Programme

The Committee has undertaken a range of activities during the year, including a review of the grant application form, consideration and awarding of financial grants, review and awards of service contracts / tenders, and precept considerations.

Financial Grants Awards

To assist the Committee Members a review of the grant application form was undertaken. The application form was updated to enable applicants an opportunity to provide relevant details about their projects which assist the Members of the Committee to evaluate the application more effectively.

During the 2022/23 municipal year the Committee has allocated £43,849 in various grant aid to a number of groups and organisations which include:

- Brecon Advice Bureau
- Chamber of Trade
- Theatr Brycheinog

- Brecon Jazz Club
- Brecon Festival Ballet
- The Wellbeing Centre

New Contracts

Toilet Cleaning Contract

The Town Councils toilet cleaning contract was reconsidered due to the previous contract reaching its review. Tenders were invited and following the Committee's assessment the Town Council appointed City 2 City as the new contractor for a two year period.



Feedback from residents and visitors has been positive with regard to the Lion Yard toilet block although the Town Council also recognises that this provision is in need of an upgrade. The Committee would like to report to residents that during the last year £9,607 was generated from the coin meters, which is used to ensure the toilets are



cleaned effectively. ("environment") ("healthy") ("communities") ("economy")

New Christmas Lights Contract

The former Town Council (2017-22) awarded the Christmas lights contract to LITE Ltd

and at the Brecon with Bells on event, the new Christmas lights were turned on. The new lights are spectacular (see attached pictures) receiving lots of positive feedback. The lights provide Christmas cheer and with the new contract using LED lights this reduces our carbon emissions. (“environment”) (“communities”) (“economy”)

Street Cleaning Contract

The Committee provided scrutiny to the street cleaning contract with Powys County Council, receiving monthly reports and presentations from the Head of Service. Feedback has generally been positive during the contracting year. Members of the Committee have made requests for the smaller sweepers to be utilised within the town and other ward areas.

(“environment”) (“healthy”) (“communities”) (“economy”)

Visit Brecon Visitor Information Service

The Committee has welcomed the increase in visitor numbers using the service following the COVID pandemic. The Committee would like to thank the Staff and Volunteers for their hard work and support they provide to residents and visitors.

(“communities”) (“economy”)

Draft work plan consideration for 2023/24

The following work plans will be considered during the next municipal year:#

- i. Review of the financial regulations to determine if any updates required.
- ii. Introduce a formal Notice of Motion for the adoption of the General Power of Competency.¹
- iii. Review of allocated reserves to set projects – amend as required.
- iv. Review of general reserves and implications for the setting of said precept.
- v. Set new precept and budget.

Cllr Chris Walsh

Chair of Finance, Commissioning and Contracting Committee.

Date 22nd April 2023

¹ **General Power of Competency**

The General Power of Competency (GpOC) will enable Brecon Town Council *‘to do anything that individuals of full age can legally do’* provided they act within the law and within the general principle of reasonableness. GPoC is the power of first resort and replaces section 137 *in the interest of the area* which is now the power of last resort.

OTHER PROJECTS

As well as the work streams mentioned in the Committee reports above, the Council as a whole has been busy this year on other work and projects, including:

- Appointment of Members to outside bodies (“environment”) (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Funding of a second crossing patrol facility at the Struet – due to commence shortly (“environment”) (“healthy”) (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Work and preparations under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act and the General Power of Competency (“environment”) (“healthy”) (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Continuation of negotiations to secure the retention of Island Fields as a community space (“environment”) (“healthy”) (“communities”)
- Section 106 funding for a community meeting facility (“environment”) (“healthy”) (“communities”)
- Participation in the ‘Smart Towns’ project and creation of a digital plan for Brecon (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Work undertaken within the Council’s Climate Action Plan (“environment”) (“healthy”) (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Support to a Brecon signage project undertaken by Brecon Buzz (“environment”) (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Free parking initiatives (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Funding arrangements for Y Gaer (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Recruitment of Youth Representatives (“environment”) (“communities”)
- Internal audit responsibilities, financial assessments and budgeting (“economy”)
- Consideration of a new Twinning opportunity (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Reviewing policies
- Assisting with co-ordination of Jazz weekend arrangements. (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Collaboration with local organisations and response to Powys’ Transforming Towns consultation (“environment”) (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Street cleaning arrangements via collaboration with Powys County Council and in-house (“environment”) (“healthy”) (“communities”) (“economy”)

BRECKNOCK WELFARE TRUST

The Brecknock Welfare Trust is a Charity that is run by appointed Members of Brecon Town Council and Chaired by the Mayor in Office. The object of the Trust is to relieve either generally or individually persons resident in Brecon who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress. The Charity has small, limited funds, and has seen a sharp increase in applications during and since the Covid-19 Pandemic took hold. It is possible for its work to be within any of the four local wellbeing objectives, but most likely to meet the (“healthy”) objectives and criteria.

In 2022-23 the work of the Brecknock Welfare Trust was reduced significantly due to depleted funds during and since the Covid crisis. However, grant funding has now been secured for Cost of Living related applications and donations and modest income streams mean the Trust is once again able to offer much needed local support.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL WELL BEING GOALS

The National Well Being Goals are:

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 Welsh language
7. A globally responsible Wales

Below is an illustration of how some of the projects and workstreams for 2022-23 are contributing to the National Well Being goals.

Item	Well Being Goal met
Financial support for Y Gaer to allow extended opening and provision	1, 2, 6
Free Parking Initiatives	1, 2, 4, 5
Street Scene Projects/Repairs/Improvements/Greening	All
Provisions of dog poo bag dispensers	2, 3, 7
Parks and Green Spaces Management and installation of equipment	1, 3, 5, 7
Public Events	1, 3, 5, 6
Civic Events	1, 5, 6
Management of Guildhall	1, 5, 6
Considering Planning Applications	1, 2, 3, 5, 7
Christmas Lights	1, 5
Issuing of Grants	All
Provision of Public Toilets	1, 3, 7
Visit Brecon Tourist Information Office	1, 5, 6, 7
Street Cleaning	1, 2, 3, 7
Youth Representative Scheme	4, 5, 6, 7
Digital improvements for Brecon	1, 4, 5, 7

CONTRIBUTION TO POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL'S 12 WELL BEING STEPS

Powys County Council has four objectives which set out the goals it is aiming for in the longer-term, described earlier in this report. To help it reach these goals Powys County Council agreed an initial 12 Well-being Steps to focus on delivering in the shorter term. These are collective steps, where it is necessary for various organisations to work together and enhance the work we're doing as individual organisations and communities. None of these steps can be delivered in isolation and each will have an impact on the others. The 12 steps are detailed below along with indications about some of the work that Brecon Town Council is doing which contributes to each of these steps:

Well-being Step 1: Actively engage with residents, communities and key stakeholders to promote, shape and deliver our vision for 2040

- ✓ Preparation and publication of an Annual Report detailing the work of Brecon Town Council and how it is contributing to the National and Local Well Being goals
- ✓ Consulting with residents about projects for delivery e.g. development of Pride event in Brecon
- ✓ Regular news updates via social media and posters

Well-being Step 2: Establish a simple and effective performance management framework to monitor progress in delivering the well-being steps and achieving the vision

- ✓ Regular monitoring and evaluation of contracts
- ✓ Robust system of internal financial audit
- ✓ Listen to and take note of feedback

Well-being Step 3: Work with and influence others to improve our transport infrastructure, our existing transport links and develop a sustainable and integrated approach for planning and delivery

- ✓ Consideration given to active travel when planning and making decisions and when responding to planning applications
- ✓ Leading on research and options for pump track and co-ordinating local cycling ambitions meetings
- ✓ Funding for street cleaning and contribution towards cleanliness of roads, pavements and carparks

Well-being Step 4: Work with and influence others to improve digital infrastructure

- ✓ Participation in Brecon becoming a 'Smart Town' including training for Staff and Councillors and developing a Smart Town Action Plan
- ✓ Engage local support for digital infrastructure and co-ordinate implementation of trials

Well-being Step 5: Develop a joint approach to community resilience by co-ordinating existing support and building the skills and capacity within communities helping them do the things they can't do for themselves

- ✓ Recruit and support volunteers at Visit Brecon
- ✓ Management of 'Brecknock Welfare Trust'
- ✓ Issue of grants

Well-being Step 6: Develop a holistic approach to skills and lifelong learning which offers a range of formal and informal opportunities, including apprenticeships and traineeships

- ✓ Development of Skills & Training Fund in collaboration with Neath and Port Talbot College
- ✓ Training and development opportunities for all Staff, Councillors and Volunteers

Well-being Step 7: Develop a carbon positive energy strategy that maximises green energy production

- ✓ Creation of a Climate Emergency Action Plan
- ✓ Implementation of short and medium term measures within the Climate Emergency Action Plan as well as developing plans for longer term actions
- ✓ Energy efficiency improvement measures installed in the Guildhall
- ✓ Ambition for green and biodiverse measures to be incorporated into all possible projects and workstreams

Well-being Step 8: Develop a sustainable environment strategy: by strengthening activity to deliver the sustainable management of Powys' natural resources through coordinated conservation work and actions underpinning the Nature Recovery Plan and Natural Resources Wales Area Statement(s)

- ✓ Publication of Environment Act Report <https://brecontowncouncil.org.uk/environment-wales-act-2016/> and Action Plan <https://brecontowncouncil.org.uk/environment-wales-act-2016-section-6-action-plan/> and works undertaken as detailed therein

Well-being Step 9: Undertake market research and establish an effective infrastructure to support active enjoyment of the environment and adventure tourism

- ✓ Provision of Visit Brecon service
- ✓ Provision of street cleaning and clean public convenience facilities
- ✓ Organising of events

Well-being Step 10: Develop a strong brand to promote and attract inward investment into Powys

- ✓ Development of Visit Brecon branding, extended into infrastructure such as town parasols and café barriers, further developed in 2023 by support to Brecon Buzz signage project
- ✓ Organising of events
- ✓ Collaborative working with tourism and grant providing colleagues
- ✓ Support of Twinning organisations

Well-being Step 11: Implement more effective structures and processes that enable multiagency community focused response to wellbeing, early help and support

- ✓ Development of Skills & Training Fund in collaboration with Neath and Port Talbot College
- ✓ Inviting relevant stakeholders and organisations to contribute to project working groups and seeking specialist stakeholder advice in project development stage e.g. local accessibility groups
- ✓ Undertaking consultation exercises for events and proposed projects

Well-being Step 12: Develop our organisations' capacity to improve emotional health and well-being within all our communities

- ✓ Grant support for organisations supporting health and well being
- ✓ Relevant training and support available for Councillors, Staff and Volunteers

Fiona Williams, Town Clerk
21st April 2023

Approved by Brecon Town Council
22nd May 2023

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD HELD BY ZOOM ON
MONDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2023**

PRESENT

County Councillor James Gibson-Watt (Leader PCC) Chair
 Gavin Bown (NRW)
 Carl Cooper (Chair PTHB)
 Deputy Chief Fire Officer Iwan Cray (Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service)
 Chief Inspector Jacqui Lovatt (Dyfed Powys Police)
 Emma Palmer (Interim Director of Corporate Services PCC)
 Alison Perry (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner)
 Amy Richmond-Jones (Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service)
 Clair Swales (Chief Executive PAVO)
 Thomas Vetter (NRW)

Supporting:

Steve Boyd (PCC)
 Lynwen Davies (Translator)
 Catherine James (PCC)
 James Langridge-Thomas (PCC)
 Sarah Quibell (PCC)
 Nicola Williams (PCC)
 Thomas Yeo (PCC)

1.	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
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Apologies for absence were received from Mererid Bowley (Director Public Health PTHB), Carol Shillabeer (Chief Executive PTHB), Chief Inspector Thomas Sharville (Dyfed Powys Police), Caroline Turner (Chief Executive PCC).

2.	UPDATE ON MEMBERSHIP
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The change in membership of the PSB was noted. Membership had been discussed at the workshop held on 26th January 2023 and was based upon the SPSF3: Collective Role (Public Service Boards) guidance that complements the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015.

The Statutory Partners were:

- Powys County Council
- Powys Teaching Health Board
- Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- Natural Resource Wales

Invited Participants were:

- Dyfed Powys Police
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Dyfed Powys
- National Probation Service
- Powys Association of Voluntary Association
- Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

Other organisations would be invited to contribute to appropriate working groups around identified steps. These were currently being developed to support the longer-term delivery of the Well-being Plan. The membership of the Public Service Board Scrutiny Committee's membership was also being reviewed.

3. CHILD POVERTY TASK FORCE - SARAH QUIBELL

Sarah Quibell, the Professional Lead for Education Support Services, gave a presentation on the Child Poverty Task Force which had been established by the Cabinet to work across all the public services to alleviate the growing crisis of child poverty in Powys communities. A conference had been held on 8th February and the outcomes from that day were the establishment of a working group to look at the cost of the non-school day and a Practice Exchange Event on 29 March 2023 to share practice and knowledge of existing work to reduce, prevent or mitigate the impact of child poverty across Wales.

It was confirmed that this was a Powys County Council plan. The Cabinet had made tackling poverty one of its corporate priorities, but it was recognised that it could not deliver this in isolation and that it would rely on the support of partners. It was noted that PTHB had its own plan and Sarah Quibell said that she would be happy to liaise with her opposite number at the Health Board. Clair Swales advised that PAVO had received a small grant to support engagement work with parents and grandparents on child poverty. Members of the PSB welcomed the collaborative approach being taken.

4. LOCAL ENERGY ACTION PLAN - TOM YEO

Tom Yeo, the Energy Lead for Growing Mid Wales, gave a presentation on the Local Energy Action Plan. He advised that the scope of the plan was to consider the full energy system in the local area, not just the Council's property estate. This included:

- Buildings – domestic, non-domestic, industrial.
- Transport – options for decarbonisation, requirements for charging.
- Energy Networks – electricity, gas.
- Local generation – small, medium scale.

And all the interactions between them.

The plan worked to a number of key principles:

- Up to a 12-month process, multi-vector and whole energy system.
- Structured engagement with key stakeholders.
- Supports the identification of action and activity.
- Technology agnostic – considering heat decarbonisation, buildings, generation, storage, energy networks and decarbonisation of transport.
- Providing granular outputs to identify the what and where (and how many).
- Provides an evidence base to leverage private and other investment.
- Data driven and spatially represented.

- Consider range of options across future local energy scenarios - assessed to 2050.
- Consider building fabric options alongside energy system options.

The Council was looking to rationalise its assets and invest in the remaining assets with schemes such as retrofitting. The NRW noted that the plan would need to have clear links with the emerging Well-Being Plan and that it needed to have a local flavour as to what would work.

All partners would be invited to stakeholder workshops. A steering group was working on the first draft of the plan to be ready by April 2023, with the final plan ready for approval by February 2024.

5.	CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE / GROWING MID WALES - NICOLA WILLIAMS
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Nicola Williams, the Strategic Programme Manager for the Corporate Joint Committee, gave a presentation on the CJC. The CJC consisted of the Leaders of Ceredigion and Powys County Councils and a member of the Brecon Beacons National Authority. The CJC had three specific functions:

- Strategic Development Planning – the Mid Wales CJC must prepare a Strategic Development Plan
- Regional Transport Planning – the Mid Wales CJC must prepare a Regional Transport Plan
- Economic Well-being – Regional Economic Development (to incorporate the Mid Wales Growth Deal).

She also gave an update on the Mid-Wales Growth Deal (MWGD). The Deal had objectives:

- to create between 1,100 and 1,400 net new jobs in Mid Wales by 2032.
- To support a net additional GVA uplift of between £570 million and £700 million for Mid Wales by 2032.
- To deliver a total investment of £280 million to £400 million in the Mid Wales Economy by 2032 (therefore a minimum of £170 million in private sector investment).

Seven projects requiring a total of £160m funding were in the Strategic Portfolio Business Case. Four projects focused on delivering a strengthened tourism offer, two projects focused on applied research and innovation and one project focused on agricultural, food and drink. There were no projects covering energy, digital, supporting enterprise or skills or employment.

The Strategic Portfolio Business Case would be tabled for approval by the Growing Mid Wales Board approval on 28 March 2023 then submitted to the UK and Welsh Governments for consideration at the Welsh Cites & Growth Deal Implementation Board meeting on 29th March and hopefully unlock £110 million funding for the region.

It was accepted that the PSB would need regular feedback so it could assess the economic impact of the Growth Deal.

6.	WELL-BEING PLAN UPDATE - CATHERINE JAMES / JAMES LANGRIDGE-THOMAS
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Catherine James, the Head of Transformation and Democratic Services. Gave an update on the Well-Being Plan. She advised that the plan was still being developed and that Welsh Government had supported delaying its submission beyond the original 1 May deadline to allow for scrutiny. The Plan was currently out for public consultation and partners were encouraged to publicise this to maximise the number of responses. A workshop had been arranged for Monday 3rd April and partners were asked to ensure that they were represented. It was agreed that the flyers publicising the consultation would be circulated again.

7.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
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None.

8.	MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING
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The minutes of the last meeting held on 3rd October 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

9.	DATES OF FUTURE PSB MEETINGS
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Thursday 6th July 2023
Thursday 28th September 2023
Friday 15th December 2023.

A further meeting would be arranged before the July meeting to approve the Well Being Plan.

County Councillor J Gibson-Watt (Chair)