

Powys Public Service Board Scrutiny Committee

Scrutiny Observations on PSB Annual Report 2019

General

- The format was received positively which in some cases had been unexpected, it was felt to be progressive
- The videos are very good, clear and concise
- There was particular support for the Lead Members presenting each video clip – it was an opportunity to put a face to a name, was considered to be less corporate and, if watching all videos in one go added variety
- The different method of uploading the videos was queried (clicking the links directs to either the Powys County Council website or Youtube)
- The videos on the Powys County Council website had both subtitles and the transcript which was preferred to the Youtube site which just had subtitles
- The mix of presentations in Welsh and English was welcomed
- The ability to view the videos is limited by access to quality broadband which is not universally available across Powys
- It was difficult to navigate between the different presentations when viewing on an iPad

Specific

- Step 2 – given the long term goals a clear performance framework (a baseline, milestones and intermediate indicators and progress reports) are needed for **each step** to allow tracking
- Step 5 – is missing
- There is no reference in the Annual Report to the progress made on the Brecon Joint Services Hub (agreement that this would be overseen by the Powys Public Service Board in their minutes of 28th March 2019)
- It would be helpful to have a shared understanding and agreement by partners of language used in the report – for example what exactly is meant by ‘resilience’
- The overall narrative from the PSB should be clearer in identifying that the PSB is independent of any of the constituent organisations and is an entity itself with all key stakeholders involved in decision making and working together for the benefit of Powys as a whole.

Contents of PSB Annual Report 2019

Steps 1 and 2 (on YouTube)

Cllr R Harris – Leader of Powys County Council and Chair of PSB. As part of this Annual Report it is quite important that we explain to you how the PSB works. There are 4 statutory members - the County Council, the Health Board, Natural Resource Wales and the Fire Authority. We invite other bodies to the meetings, The Police, the BBNP, others will have a contribution to make.

Dr C Turner – Chief Executive Powys County Council – the purpose of the PSB is to bring most of the partners together across Powys to make sure that we work together to identify what the needs of the county are and that we then work together to deliver tangible projects.

M Cox – Head of Operations – Natural Resources Wales – PSBs represent a real opportunity – it provides a fantastic way to work across the public sector to ensure we aren't just working on our own agendas.

P Davies – Welsh Government – to really think about the type of Powys that we want to work towards. So not simply living in the present but how we want Powys to look in 10 and 20 years time.

Cllr Harris – we have developed the Well-being Plan which is part of the Future Generations Act. There are 12 steps each of those will be taken forward by one of the bodies involved in the PSB

Steps 1 and 2 about how the PSB works – we will be engaging with communities – we may have already consulted with you as part of our Plan Towards 2040. There will be scrutiny of everything going forward. We are developing a performance management framework which will help us and our scrutiny team and you know we are doing the correct thing. I feel that we could provide better services by working together.

Step 3

Iwan Cray, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Mid and West Wales Fire Service

Powys PSB Well-being Plan, 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.

The rural nature of Powys means that frequent travel is inevitable whether for work or leisure and being able to get around Powys and beyond, easily and safely underpins the 2040 vision. There are public routes and bus services available across the county

however, they are not as connected, convenient or safe as they could be, and people can find themselves isolated because they are no longer able to drive.

The Public Service Board Step 3 is designed to enable all partners to work together to ensure that a cohesive and long-term approach is taken to tackle issues such as road safety, improving road engineering and signage, loneliness and isolation and sustainable infrastructures.

The Public Service Board representatives on the Transportation and Sustainable Implementation Group are working in an inclusive way to understand the challenges facing young and old, together with communities and businesses, to look at how we can improve roads, and bus and train timetabling.

The group is also looking at the most suitable locations for the siting of electric charging points for those living in Powys, and those using the county as a business or holiday location. Work is progressing, and hopefully you'll be able to see the change in your communities during the next few years.

Step 4

Ness Young – Corporate Director Transformation – Powys County Council – Step 4 is about working with and influencing others to improve digital infrastructure across Powys. The way we work and live today is changing and having a big impact on daily life. The PSB is seeking to work with Government, businesses, communities and individuals to improve our access to digital infrastructure and technologies. Over last year efforts focused on developing digital connectivity with our communities and exploring the next generation of broadband internet service called Gigabit Internet. We've been working with Welsh Government also to understand the rollout. The PSB has also been supporting the development of community schemes. The Yscir Community Scheme has been completed and a number of other community schemes across the county are being considered. The PSB has also taken a key interest in the development of the Mid Wales Growth Deal recognising the opportunities that the deal could provide to us in terms of supporting digital businesses and improving the speed at which we can rollout the latest digital infrastructure across the county. We are now developing an ambitious digital transformation programme for the Council and we are working closely with PSB colleagues to ensure that together we have the digital leadership to ensure that Powys can have the digital infrastructure that it deserves

Step 5

Preparatory meetings have been held, led by Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations (PAVO) to determine the scope and content of this step.

PSB partners are now looking at plans to progress this step.

Step 6

Dr Caroline Turner, Chief Executive, Powys County Council

The purpose of the step six is to ensure that adequate and appropriate attention is given to lifelong learning needs and skills across the whole of Powys. And that is important in relation to ensuring that local people have the skills, training and experience for obtaining jobs locally so that they can continue to live in their communities. But it is also important in relation to employers in order to ensure adequate numbers of individuals with the appropriate experience and skills are employed locally.

One of the big events we organised this year and for the third time was the Careers Fair held in March. Hundreds of young people from across the county assembled there to converse with employers and with training providers in order to see the opportunities available to them. But we are not only considering young people we do consider people who currently work locally in Powys in order to reinforce their skills. As well as people of all ages, because learning new skills benefits an individual's wellbeing and lessens loneliness.

There are all important elements in relation to the lifelong learning and skills agenda. We have a draft strategy that needs to be completed and adopted. We also want to accomplish further work to identify what kind of gaps exist in relation to skills locally and there are opportunities here to collaborate on a Growth Framework for Mid Wales.

Thank you very much for watching this video that presents our annual report.

Step 7

Prys Davies – until April 2019 responsible for Powys PSB’s Step 7 which is around developing a carbon positive strategy with a focus on green energy production. The whole purpose of the plan is to develop a bottom up view of the type of Powys we want – a decarbonise, low carbon energy Powys by 2040 with the input of people from across the local authority area. Since establishing the step we’ve formed a group across the members of the PSB to consider how we want to develop this carbon positive strategy. Powys is in a pretty good place in terms of its carbon emissions, per head it’s probably got some of the lowest carbon emissions across Wales but there was a real recognition amongst the PSB that we need to be best in class in terms of Wales and beyond. That we really need to look at the opportunity to drive this agenda which is going to be really about the future economy that Wales is going to have. So as part of thinking about how we develop that work we decided to procure some external support which will help us work across the organisation but with the general public as well, to think about the steps that we need to take across Powys to reduce emissions. It will cover how we generate energy, how we travel, the type of food we produce and eat and how we heat our homes. All issues across how we function as a society.

Step 8

Martin Cox – Natural Resources Wales. In the Powys Well-being Plan one of the key steps is the development of a sustainable environmental strategy to work across the public sector and beyond. We have developed 5 key themes to this strategy. The first one is about connecting people with nature. When people experience the environment and they understand its importance to their well-being then they value it and support the protection of it. The second theme is about reducing our impact from pollution, waste and climate change. Our third theme is around improving our ecological and climate change resilience, both for the environment and the communities of Powys. The fourth theme focuses on the sustainable use of natural resources. In Powys our environment is crucial to our economy, and we need to be able to meet the needs of today, without compromising the needs of future generations. Our last theme is about recognising and building on all the fantastic work that’s been done. There is a lot of fantastic work going on but we need to pull together and co-ordinate all these strategies so we make the best use of resources to deliver the maximum benefits. We also need to try and identify any gaps where perhaps nobody is working and we need to do more. We also want to identify those real opportunities where we can deliver tangible, significant benefits for the environment and for people. So please support us in this work going forward, we need to protect and enhance our natural environment because it is so important to the well-being of the present and future generations of Powys.

Steps 9 and 10

Nigel Brinn – Corporate Director for Economy and Environment Powys County Council. Step 9 is to undertake market research and establish an effective

infrastructure to support active enjoyment of the environment and adventure tourism. Step 10 is to develop a strong brand to promote and attract inward investment in to Powys. Both steps have in effect been picked up by the Mid Wales Growth Deal programme which is a collaboration between ourselves, Westminster Government, Cardiff Government and our nearby partners Ceredigion County Council. We will be covering all the activities identified by the steps as part of the overall programme of works associated with the growth deal and we are now working on developing the programme into actual projects.

Steps 11 and 12

Stuart Bourne – Director of Public Health – Powys Teaching Health Board. Steps 11 and 12 are firstly to implement more effective structures and processes that enable a multi agency, community focused response to well-being, early help and support. Step 12 is develop all our organisations' capacity to improve emotional health and well-being within all our communities. A decision was made in 2018/19 to merge steps 11 and 12 with a programme that was being developed through the Regional Partnership Board. That programme is called the North Powys Well-being Programme which aims to design a new model of care with citizens from the ground up using insights and experiences of what health and care means to people today and also what people would like to see more of in the future. It also provides a focus on well-being, to keep citizens healthy, enable to participate fully in their neighbourhood and community. Finally the programme aims to tackle the big 4 causes of ill health and poor well-being in Powys, which are mental health, circulatory disease, cancer and respiratory illness. The vision for a multi agency campus has been developed, a preferred site has been agreed in principle in the centre of Newtown. This will accommodate health, social care, education, supported living and it will have key links to leisure services. And finally a transformation bid to Welsh Government has been approved to support the first phase of the programme. It is intended that this work will serve as a model for how we create the capacity to improve the emotional health and well-being of communities throughout Powys in the years to come.