



## POWYS PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

19 December 2019

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Ness Young, Corporate Director Resources and Transformation

**REPORT TITLE:** REPRESENTATION OF ONE VOICE WALES ON POWYS PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

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**REPORT FOR:** Decision

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### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek the approval of the Board to invite One Voice Wales to have a representative attend the Powys Public Service Board, to represent Town and Community Councils across Powys, with effect from 1 January 2020.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 On 19 September 2019 the Board was invited to consider a request from One Voice Wales<sup>1</sup> to represent Town and Community Councils in Powys on the Powys PSB.
- 2.2 Town and Community Councils comprise elected members (and in some cases co-opted members) and exist to serve their communities and to improve the quality of life in their localities. Town and Community Councils have an important role in providing the voice of the citizen in the development and delivery of public services in Wales. They also contribute by:
- Mobilising community activity;
  - Providing additionality to services and facilities provided by other bodies;
  - Providing local democratic accountability;
  - Being able to plan long term due to the stability and continuity provided by their statutory constitution;
  - Being able to raise taxes through precepting Council Tax; and
  - Promoting public service and citizenship within communities.
- 2.3 In addition, under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Community Councils with a turnover of more than £200,000 per year ‘...must take all reasonable

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<sup>1</sup> One Voice Wales is the principal organisation for Town and Community Councils in Wales, representing the councils' interests and providing a range of services to support their work.



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steps in its areas towards meeting the local objectives including in the local well-being plan...’

- 2.4 The statutory members of the PSB are Natural Resources Wales, the Mid Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, Powys County Council and Powys Teaching Health Board. Statutory invitees are Welsh Government, Dyfed Powys Police and PAVO. The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority is also an invited member. Under the Powys PSB Terms of Reference, the Board can invite organisations that exercise functions of a public nature to participate, as they consider appropriate. Town and Community Councils are represented on many Public Service Boards across Wales.
- 2.5 Against that background, the Board agreed to consider One Voice Wales request further with them. Since the last PSB meeting, discussions have taken place between members of the One Voice Wales Executive Board and Powys County Council officers to consider how best to ensure a One Voice Wales representative could represent all the Town and Community Councils in Powys and to provide clarity about what being a member of the PSB would involve.
- 2.6 The PSB has recognised the value of engaging Town and Community Councils in the delivery of Towards 2040 before the request from One Voice Wales was received. This recognition resulted in the engagement event for Town and Community Councils that was held on 19 September at Celf O Gwmpus in Llandrindod Wells to increase awareness of the Wellbeing Plan and to consider how Town and Community Councils could contribute to its delivery.

### 3. Advice

- 3.1 Only fifteen Town and Community Councils were represented at the engagement event on 19 September, but several themes emerged from the discussion around the potential for closer working between the PSB and TCCs and the benefits this could bring to the delivery of the 12 steps, particularly in respect of mobilising action locally, promoting volunteering and planning for the long term.
- 3.2 PSB members who attended the event welcomed the opportunity to engage with the Town and Community Councils and particularly valued hearing the voice of the citizen in respect of how to take forward the 12 steps. PSB attendees could see the benefits of working more closely with Town and Community Councils.
- 3.3 In view of the above the Board is invited to agree that Town and Community Councils should be invited to be represented on the Board by One Voice Wales, based on the following proposal that has been developed through discussion between members of the One Voice Wales Executive Board and Ness Young, Powys County Council:



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***One member of the One Voice Wales Executive Board to attend PSB meetings to represent Town and Community Councils in Powys, based on the membership of the PSB being shared by one member from Montgomeryshire and one member from Brecon and Radnorshire, attending meetings on an alternate basis.***

### **4. Resource Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications for existing PSB members arising from the recommendation in this report as the invitation to One Voice Wales is extended on the basis that the role on the Board will be unpaid.

### **5. Legal implications**

- 5.1 The PSB has the freedom to invite bodies, not covered under statute, to participate in the PSB in whatever manner it sees fit as long as invited participants exercise functions of a public nature.

### **6. Recommendation**

- 6.1 The Board is invited to agree to invite One Voice Wales to become a member of the Powys PSB as per the proposal in paragraph 3.3 above, with effect from 1 January 2020.

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