



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

Powys Public Service Board

Towards 2040 – Our Well-Being Plan

Get in touch

We are committed to involving everyone along the way, the more the people of Powys are involved in shaping our plans the greater the impact on well-being in Powys.

You can track progress against our Well-being Steps during the year, by viewing the reports that are presented to the PSB at their meetings - [Powys Public Service Board](#)

The work of the PSB Scrutiny committee is also available to view here - [Public Service Board Scrutiny Committee](#)

If you would like any further information or have any questions about this well-being assessment there are many ways to get in touch with us:

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A message from The Chair

On behalf of the Powys Public Service Board (PSB), I am pleased to present our fourth Annual Report, following what has been a challenging year for us all. The report gives a brief overview of what we have achieved in delivering against our five-year Well-being plan and looks at the challenges ahead.

We ended the 2021-2022 year in a very different place to where we began, with public services, communities, the third sector and local businesses continuing to find new ways of doing things, being both innovative and resourceful as they emerged the pandemic to the “new normal”. The partnership response coordinated and carried out through relevant emergency planning frameworks has been commendable and I have no doubt that the effectiveness is in part due to the relationships and connections developed through the PSB.

We have continued to progress some of our Well-being Plan objectives and steps. These are at the heart of what the PSB is trying to do, to improve the opportunities and experiences for residents and communities in Powys. Projects that began in 2018-19 have continued to grow, with new ideas and the continued ambition of partners.

As we move forward, the PSB will have an important role to play in supporting Powys to continue to recover from the pandemic. In November 2020, a recovery workshop was held, and we agreed to prioritise three of our well-being steps, making these our main focus as a route to recovery, these are; improving digital infrastructure; developing a decarbonisation strategy and implementing a sustainable environment strategy.

During the year, we have undertaken a comprehensive assessment of the area, [Powys Wellbeing Assessment](#). This also led to engagement with residents through an online survey and ask questions about their experiences of living in Powys - covering topics from employment and health to Welsh language, the findings will be used to develop our next well-being assessment and has provided valuable insight in to shaping the future of Powys. I look forward to working with members of the PSB as we use this information to further develop the next iteration of the well-being plan.

I am grateful to my colleagues on the PSB for their continued commitment towards improving the well-being of residents and communities in the county. Our Town and Community Councils continue to be represented on the PSB and some are also expected to publish annual reports setting out their contributions to the local objectives in Towards 2040.

We hope you will be interested in the work we are doing and would welcome ideas and contributions that can bring about change that will create the Powys we all want now and for future generations.

Cllr. James Gibson-Watt, Chair of Powys Public Service Board

What is this annual report?

This is Powys Public Services Board (PSB) fourth Annual Report. It highlights work that the PSB has done during 2021-2022 to deliver the objectives in Towards 2040 Our Well-being Plan ([Towards 2040 - the Powys Well-being Plan - Powys County Council](#)). We launched our Well-being plan in July 2018 following a comprehensive assessment of the well-being of the local population and extensive consultation and engagement with a wide range of stakeholders. The objectives in our plan aim to address the issues which the residents and communities of Powys told us are most important to improving their well-being. We published our first annual report in July 2019, followed by our second report a year later – copies can be found here: [Powys Public Service Board - Our Annual Progress Report](#)

Our first year of delivery focussed on planning and prioritising activity for each of the 12 steps in our plan and considering how we can fully embrace the sustainable development principles in our work. This helped to create a clear roadmap for delivering our plan for future years.

What is the Powys Public Service Board?

The Public Service Board (PSB) is a statutory strategic partnership established under the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#). The Act requires key local organisation 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 - Powys County Council](#)). It must use the finding of the assessment to set objectives and produce a plan designed to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in the local area.

The statutory partners that make up the board are:

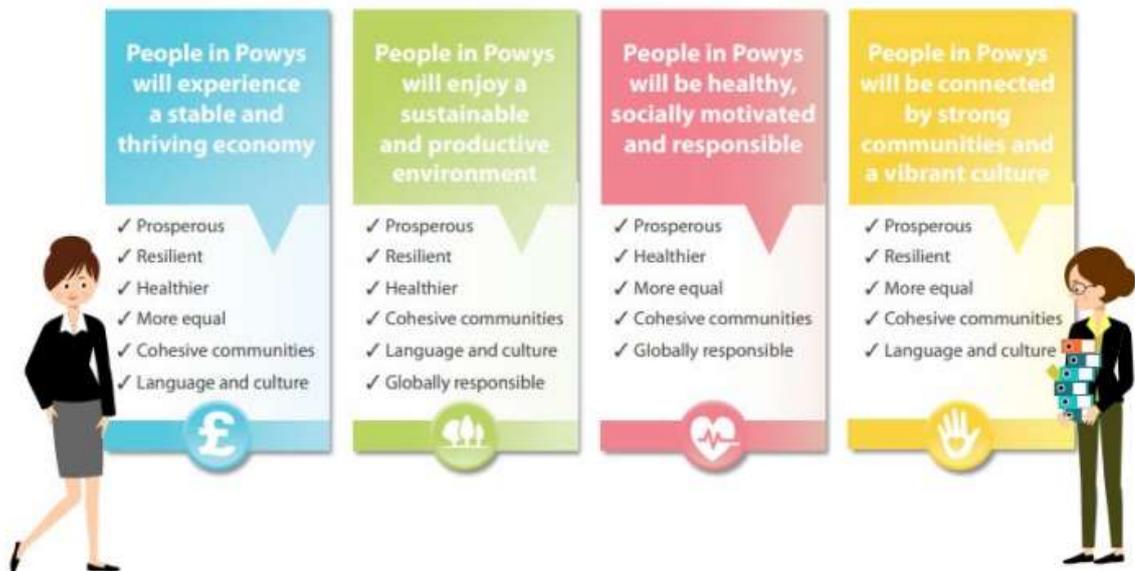
- Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service - www.mawwfire.gov.uk
- Natural Resources Wales - <https://naturalresources.wales>
- Powys County Council - www.powys.gov.uk
- Powys Teaching Health Board - www.powysthb.wales.nhs.uk

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

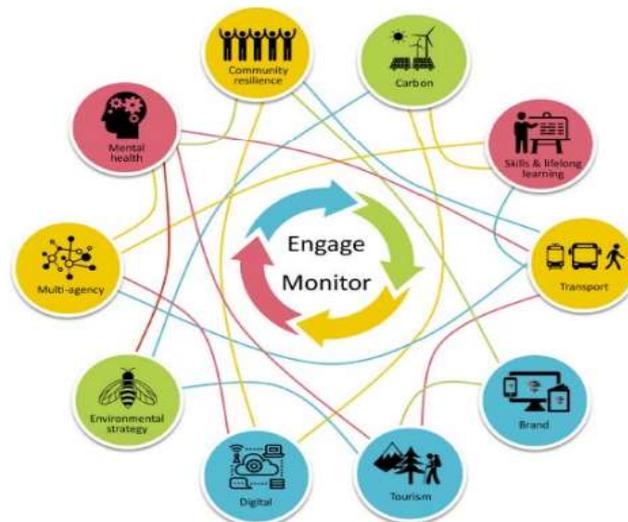
- Brecon Beacons National Park Authority - www.beacons-npa.gov.uk
- Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations - www.pavo.org.uk
- Dyfed Powys Police - www.dyfed-powys.police.uk
- Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner - www.dyfedpowys-pcc.org.uk
- Department for Work and Pensions
- Welsh Government
- Probation Service
- One Voice Wales

What are the objectives in Towards 2040 Our Well-being Plan

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



Our Twelve Well-being Steps



Our four objectives set out the goals we are aiming for in the longer-term. To help us reach these goals we agreed an initial 12 Well-being Steps to focus on delivering in the shorter term. These are collective steps, where we need 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 PSB is working collaboratively to ensure we make the most of these links and opportunities and challenge ourselves, and others, when things get in the way of doing what we've agreed we will. Each of the 12 Steps is being led by a PSB partner, whose responsibility is to ensure that work is progressing as planned, and that results are being delivered. This report looks at each of the steps in turn and includes examples of the partnership work undertaken by the Powys Public Service Board during 2021-22.

Well-being Steps update for 2021-22

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



Lead organisation: Powys County Council

Our vision is ambitious, and it can't be achieved without the help of others. We will need the contribution of businesses, communities, third sector organisations, colleges, and others to improve well-being in Powys and achieve our vision for the future of Powys. As a PSB, we need to be enthusiastic about the vision and what it will achieve and promote that whenever we're dealing with stakeholders. We will use the vision as a golden thread when talking to other organisations and ensure that all those we work with are aware of the vision and what the PSB is doing to make it a reality

What have we been working on during 2021-22 to deliver our local objectives?

- ✓ **PSB Annual Report** - [The PSB Annual Report 2020-2024](#) was developed and published on the Council's PSB webpage in July 2021 and all partners were asked to publish on their websites.
- ✓ **Public Engagement Platform** - A shared engagement platform called 'Engagement HQ'. (Currently being funded by the Regional Partnership Board) launched live at the end of May 2021. Since then, across the site there has been 47,047 total site visits, with 16% of visitors actively engaging with the projects across the site.
- ✓ **Well-being assessment and plan** – Two engagement projects were held during the year 2021-22 to gather and analyse as much data and insights as possible about Powys residents' well-being. The finalised and updated full Well-being Assessment analysis for Powys was published on the Powys County Council website: [Well-being Assessment Analysis](#)

What do we plan to do in 2022-23?

- ✓ Continue public engagement through the Engagement HQ platform and identify opportunities for joint engagement and communications across the Steps.

What challenges do we face?

- ✓ Successful progression of the actions will rely on available capacity across PSB partner organisations.

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



Lead organisation: Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

We need to know if what we're doing is making the differences we want. The PSB will create a transparent way of assessing the effectiveness of our Well-being Steps, as they are being developed, in achieving the vision so that everyone can see the progress that's being made.

What have we been working on during 2021-22 to deliver our local objectives?

- ✓ Work planned under Step 2 was put on hold due to resources being deployed to support the covid response, and because of staff changes and capacity within the BBNPA. However, the PSB has continued to use the Performance Assurance Framework that was developed in 2019- 20 to report progress/ risk against its 12 Well-being Steps at least quarterly to the PSB.

What do we plan to do in 2022-23?

- ✓ Evaluate the current performance management framework being used by the PSB and consider opportunities for automating the reporting process and aligning better with other reporting processes and systems used by individual partners. This will ensure a simpler performance management reporting framework to support the monitoring and delivery of our shared objectives and well-being steps.
- ✓ Focus on strengthening the performance measures and data currently being used by the PSB to understand the impact the steps are having on residents and communities.

What challenges do we face?

- ✓ All PSB partners have their own approach and timescales for reporting performance which can sometimes duplicate or conflict with the PSB framework.

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



Lead organisation: Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service

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 cycle routes and bus services available, however, they are not as connected, convenient or safe as they could be. People can find themselves isolated because they are no longer able to drive due to age or ill health. The public sector in Powys provides a lot of transport within the county and there are opportunities to improve the way we do this, potentially making better use of what we have, including community transport and providing additional benefits to our communities. The PSB will work collectively to make the case for Powys with national and regional government for investment in transport, including the provision of electric charging points and refuelling points for emerging fuels.

What have we been working on during 2021-22 to deliver our local objectives?

- ✓ The Step 3 delivery plan was revised to ensure that its priorities were relevant and achievable. The plan was amended to reflect the key areas the step 3 group felt they could make progress in, namely, *Work with and influence others to improve our transport infrastructure, work with and influence others to improve our existing transport links and work with and influence others to develop a sustainable and integrated approach for planning and delivery.*
- ✓ An electric vehicle charging points spreadsheet was created to map out the locations of organisations EV charge points across Powys.
- ✓ Representatives from Welsh Government were invited to attend a Step 3 meeting to deliver a presentation on the Welsh Governments' electric vehicle strategy.
- ✓ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was developed for the use of charging points between partner organisations.

- ✓ Car sharing and EV charging point discussions were initiated, and amendments were made to the business case for the Northern Powys Wellbeing Programme in Newtown, to help with community connectivity.
- ✓ Opportunities to improve the accessibility of forestries and public rights of way owned by Natural Resources Wales were explored.
- ✓ The COVID-19 pandemic has inevitably had an impact on the progression of this Step, due to the reduced capacity of the majority of partners and stakeholders being required to re-direct their resources to maintaining business as usual. The Group continued to meet as often as possible, with meetings taking place every quarter to progress the work of this step, regular attendance from partners did unfortunately cause some limitations to the progression of this group.
- ✓ On a more positive note, the COVID-19 pandemic required partner organisations to not only work differently but to also strengthen collaborative working arrangements in order to continue to deliver business as usual services to communities. Some examples of positive partnership working arrangements undertaken by our Community Safety Team included.
- ✓ Partnership agreement drafted, agreed, and signed with Powys County Council Careline Customer Services Team and ongoing project in progress to fit and retrofit Tunstall smoke and heat alarms that are linked to the Careline system in the homes of vulnerable/elderly adults.
- ✓ Initial discussions also held apropos partnership working with local representatives from:
 - ClywdAlyn (North Wales based housing association covering north Powys)
 - Goleudy (Victim and Witness Service embedded with Dyfed-Powys Police)
 - Powys County Council's Hearing Impairment and Visual Impairment Teams

- ✓ Multiple home fire safety events carried out with Barcud (housing association) to promote our Service's Safe and Well Checks and advice on smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms.
- ✓ Multiple events carried out during the summer of 2021 with Powys County Council "Flying Start" programme where we promoted our Service's Safe and Well visits. (Note: The Flying Start scheme provides intensive support services for children aged 0-3 years old and their families)
- ✓ Arson reduction/awareness events carried out in June 2021 and April 2022 in conjunction with PCSOs from Dyfed-Powys Police and the Elan Valley Trust/Welsh Water.
- ✓ Health and Well-Being event attended March 2022 at Infantry Battle School at Dering Lines military camp in Brecon along with multiple partners.
- ✓ Work placements facilitated and undertaken in spring and summer 2022 by PCSOs from Dyfed-Powys Police Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) working alongside members of the Powys Community Safety Team at Brecon and Newtown fire stations.
- ✓ Members of the Powys Community Safety Team are regular attendees at the Powys County Council chaired Powys Road Safety Partnership meetings and are a key stakeholder in the planning and execution of an upcoming road safety event aimed at motorcyclists on 11th June 2022 alongside Powys County Council, Dyfed-Powys Police and other relevant partners.
- ✓ Multiple Home Fire Safety talks delivered to community groups and partners by members of the Powys Community Safety Team, examples as follows (this list is not exhaustive):
 - Dementia Matters in Powys (Llandrindod Wells)
 - Caersws OAP Club (Caersws)
 - Machynlleth Play Scheme (Machynlleth)
 - Sennybridge Womens Institute (Sennybridge, Brecon)

What do we plan to do in 2022-23?

- ✓ Explore collaborative and joined up procurement with regards to electric vehicle charging points across Powys.
- ✓ Consult with local residents about ideas to improve active travel to enable safe walking and cycling routes.
- ✓ Identify who needs access to community travel and develop solutions for where the gaps are currently .
- ✓ Continue to increase the provision of electric vehicle charging points to support our environmental policies.
- ✓ Continue to investigate options for investment from regional and national government to help us make these improvements.
- ✓ Review information and build integrated maps to see where we can connect travel routes and facilitate safe active travel e.g. walking or cycling.
- ✓ Map all existing community travel services available in the county and sharing it with the people who need it.
- ✓ Share information with all partners for a joined-up transport and infrastructure approach throughout Powys.

What challenges do we face?

- ✓ Regular attendance at meetings due to personnel changes continue to make it difficult to progress the workstreams.
- ✓ The ability to undertake meaningful engagement with stakeholders with limited resources.
- ✓ The improvements we would like to make are a significant financial expense, and without investment from regional or national government, may not be

possible to achieve.

- ✓ Many of the people who need the help or service the most do not ask for it, so identifying where these people live, so that we can ensure we plan appropriate solutions in the right place is challenging.

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



Lead organisation: Powys County Council

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 cycle routes and bus services available, however, they are not as connected, convenient or safe as they could be. People can find themselves isolated because they are no longer able to drive due to age or ill health. The public sector in Powys provides a lot of transport within the county and there are opportunities to improve the way we do this, potentially making better use of what we have, including community transport and providing additional benefits to our communities. The PSB will work collectively to make the case for Powys with national and regional government for investment in transport, including the provision of electric charging points and refuelling points for emerging fuels.

What have we been working on during 2021-22 to deliver our local objectives?

- ✓ Shared Data for improved decision making
- ✓ Improved digital infrastructure for Powys
- ✓ Supporting residents to improve digital skills
- ✓ Research and Development using digital environment tools

What do we plan to do in 2022-23?

- ✓ No activity planned as a PSB although work continues for Digital Connectivity under Grow Mid Wales

What challenges do we face?

- ✓ Digital connectivity is still an issue for many homes in Powys.

- ✓ Digital skills across our communities still needs support to develop.
- ✓ Digital has the opportunity to transform many aspects of life should we wish to invest in R&D (e.g. flood prevention)

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



Lead organisation: Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations

Our communities are one of our biggest strengths, where people feel connected to their neighbours. The availability, expectations and delivery of public services is likely to change in the future and our communities are more likely to become the first-place residents go for help and support. We want to ensure that our communities remain strong, friendly, supportive places that all residents feel able to contribute to, or receive from, as they need.

What have we been working on during 2021-22 to deliver our local objectives?

Much progress has been made by and via Powys' Social Value Forum, the CSRG. Below is a summary of the principal information:

- ✓ The continued growth of a Health and Care Volunteer-force in Powys.
 - 798 volunteers registered
 - 421 new registered volunteers
 - 493 volunteering opportunities
 - 201 new volunteers placed in health settings
 - 1379 volunteers placed in community settings

- ✓ The funding of a number of social value initiatives that have helped to maintain and improve the wellbeing of individuals, households and communities.

- ✓ 281 new social value initiatives supported and developed. Monitoring information, to date, indicates that over 2100 beneficiaries have been supported and over 240 volunteers have been involved.

- ✓ 502 participants in networks

- ✓ 102 organisations involved in networks

What do we plan to do in 2022-23?

- ✓ This will be further enhanced and strengthened by development sessions on co-production and the effective engagement and involvement of citizens and carer
- ✓ Further develop and strengthen the local community support networks.
- ✓ Further promote and nurture volunteering in Powys, both formal and informal.
- ✓ Strengthen the provision of community transport, with a particular focus on transport for young people and people that live with disabilities.
- ✓ Develop the provision of befriending services for young people.
- ✓ Support the maximisation and encouragement of intergenerational provision where appropriate.

What challenges do we face?

- ✓ Volunteer fatigue
- ✓ Inadequate or short-term resourcing of volunteering infrastructure and support
- ✓ Insufficient coordination of volunteering support among partner agencies.

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



Lead organisation: Powys County Council

Studying at university or college isn't the only way to gain the skills needed for work and the organisations and businesses of the future will need skilled people to work in them. We could provide opportunities for specialist training to meet those needs enabling young people to continue to live in Powys and widening their career prospects. We could attract people to the county by being a centre of excellence for health care, environmental work or renewables, possibly creating a higher education establishment in Powys. We also want to develop opportunities across the county that will support learners, of whatever age or ability, whether retraining or learning for fun - combating loneliness and isolation. This will also help the economy, building on existing sectors and developing new ones where Powys can be at the forefront of innovation.

What have we been working on during 2021-22 to deliver our local objectives?

- ✓ Post-16 Transformation
- ✓ Apprenticeship talent pool
- ✓ Raise awareness of apprentices
- ✓ Adult Community Learning (ACL)
- ✓ Regional Skills Partnership
- ✓ Careers advice

What do we plan to do in 2022-23?

Step 6 is looking to continue three key areas of work in 2022-23:

- ✓ **Post-16 Transformation:** The council's Transforming Education Strategy sets out a number of Strategic Aims and Objectives to shape the council's

work to transform the Powys education system over the coming years. The requirement to improve post-16 provision falls under Strategic Aim 2: “we will improve learner entitlement and experience for post-16 learners”.

- ✓ **Adult Community Learning (ACL):** In addition to delivery of the 2022-23 programme, Adult Community Learning delivery will be reviewed, with plans put in place for future delivery which is responsive to the post-COVID environment in Powys.

- ✓ **Regional Skills Partnership (RSP):** The Regional Skills Partnership for Mid-Wales is key to developing a demand driven skills agenda. Activities for 2022-23 include:
 - To identify and respond to the needs of employers and learners across Mid-Wales
 - To engage with employers, sectors and stakeholders to identify current and future skills needs across the regions and plan accordingly
 - To align activity to future demand and stimulate innovation through learning and employment
 - To enable an inclusive regional response to Welsh Government policy and initiatives
 - To align activity with the skills requirements of Growing Mid Wales

What challenges fo we face?

The main challenge across the board is delivery in a large rural county in a post-COVID environment.

- ✓ **Post-16 Transformation** – work to progress this workstream has continued at pace during the COVID-19 pandemic. The rurality of the county remains one of the main challenges to delivery, but enhanced collaborative working between schools, the local authority and partners continues to seek and implement solutions.

- ✓ **Adult Community Learning** – maintaining course uptake during the COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenge, however, we are working with Welsh Government and partners around national and local re-engagement strategies and activities.
- ✓ **Regional Skills Partnership (RSP)** – supporting businesses in the recovery from the impact of COVID-19. There will also be a challenge in identifying net-zero skills across all sectors. It will also be necessary to support business to upskill and re-skill employees to meet the challenging demands of new and evolving technology, including digital skills, whilst working with training providers to respond to new skills demands and the national occupational standards. The end of European Social Fund (ESF) support will potentially create gaps in intervention projects for the most vulnerable residents in Powys, including those not in education, employment or training (NEETs) or self-employment. It will be imperative that the RSP works with partners to identify gaps and potential solutions.

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



Lead organisation: Powys County Council

Powys has an abundance of potential renewable energy sources. As well as providing green energy this can also provide jobs, skills and financial benefits that will contribute to making our communities more resilient. The diverse nature of renewable opportunities could support research and skills development, with Powys becoming a centre of excellence in the renewable energy field. By contributing to a greener energy infrastructure, we would also be helping to mitigate the impacts of potentially damaging climate change in Powys and beyond.

What have we been working on during 2021-22 to deliver our local objectives?

- ✓ The Mid Wales Energy Strategy was produced and endorsed by Powys and Ceredigion County Councils in 2021, the strategy was developed by Growing Mid Wales, Powys and Ceredigion local authorities, Welsh Government Energy Service and technical experts and key stakeholders from within the Mid Wales region. The strategy engaged with stakeholders through online and face to face sessions and surveys to help shape the following key stages of development – state of play assessment, baseline assessment, vision setting and strategic context and energy system modelling and economic impact analysis. The strategy has a focused vision and set of priorities to enable Mid Wales to achieve a net zero-carbon energy system towards 2035 to meet Welsh Government’s 2050 target for Wales.
- ✓ Our vision for Mid Wales is: To achieve a net zero-carbon energy system that delivers social and economic benefits, eliminates fuel poverty, better connects Mid Wales to the rest of the UK, and contributes to wider UK decarbonisation.
- ✓ Our priorities for achieving this vision are to:
 - Drive forward the decarbonisation of the region’s housing and building stock

- Work proactively to ensure that electricity and gas grids in the region are suitable for a 100% decarbonised future
 - Boost the use of renewable energy through new generation and storage
 - Accelerate the shift to zero carbon transport and improve connectivity
 - Develop and harness the potential of agriculture to contribute to zero carbon goals
 - Harness innovation to support decarbonisation and clean growth
- ✓ 2022 has seen the focus shift to produce a Strategic Action Plan for the Mid Wales Region. It sets out the initial actions required to realise the Mid Wales Energy Strategy. 4 stakeholder workshops were held early 2022 focussed on the following themes - agriculture, domestic energy, power generation and transport. The workshop themes were developed to reflect the strategic priorities outlined in the Strategy and align with broader local, regional, and national strategies and policies. Over 130 stakeholders engaged in this process and over 50 actions were developed. In development of both the Strategy and this action plan, strong governance has been established through a dedicated Advisory Group which has ensured regional oversight and provided direction to the work as it has developed.
- ✓ Next stages will be to finalise a final draft action plan and gain endorsement within the region through Powys and Ceredigion Council democratic governance processes.
- ✓ Powys & Ceredigion County Councils have secured support from Welsh Government working with the Energy Systems Catapult to develop Local Area Energy Plans for the respective counties
- ✓ A Mid Wales Hydrogen and Alternative fuels feasibility study was commissioned to explore the commercial opportunities in Mid Wales

What do we plan to do in 2022-23?

- ✓ Working closely with Welsh Government, the Energy Systems Catapult and key council services and wider regional stakeholders we will develop Local Area Energy Plans for Powys and Ceredigion over the next 18-24 months.
- ✓ Once endorsement of the Mid Wales Energy Strategy Action Plan is achieved, we will begin focussed work on short term actions with regional partners

What challenges do we face?

- ✓ A rapidly changing policy context
- ✓ We are already seeing the impacts of climate change in our county
- ✓ High levels of fuel poverty (worsened by global gas prices and energy cap/rises)
- ✓ Mid Wales has no transmission grid infrastructure only distribution which results in a constrained electric grid with very little capacity – reinforcement will be require if we are to decarbonise heat and transport through electrification and technologies such as heat pumps and EV charging infrastructure.
- ✓ High number of off gas properties in Mid Wales heating homes with expensive LPG
- ✓ High numbers of old buildings with poor fabric conditions, poorly insulated EPC E or worse
- ✓ Green skills and supply chains need to be supported, upskilled and retrained to decarbonise the region

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)



Lead organisation: Natural Resources Wales

Our environment is fundamental in sustaining life be it through food production, the supply of water, the biodiverse habitats and species which enable natural processes to function, or for our physical and mental health and well-being. We want to ensure that Powys' diverse natural environments are in good condition and can withstand pressures including climate change in years to come. The quality of Powys's natural environment sustains the local economy through a vibrant agricultural sector, forestry and through tourism but is also precious in its own right through all of the life it supports and for the natural landscapes we enjoy. We will need to work with landowners and managers, conservation organisations, communities and volunteers to identify how best to conserve and enhance Powys' natural resources and environment for future residents and visitors.

What have we been working on during 2021-22 to deliver our local objectives?

- ✓ Reconvened the working group following earlier Covid impacts and updated membership of the group.
- ✓ Recognised that PSB partners have a range of existing environmental strategies that are increasingly reflecting the Mid Wales Area Statement themes and focus areas.
- ✓ Established a way forward for Step 8 recognising the various changes seen during the period of the existing Powys Wellbeing Plan for those delivering environmental work in Powys, the pressures on our environment and the needs of the people of Powys.
- ✓ Identified the need for a more dynamic framework and platform for capturing the work that partners are already undertaking and are planning to undertake in order

to better coordinate action and to potentially identify areas where we may wish to collectively prioritise future action.

What do we plan to do in 2022-23?

- ✓ Identify and agree technology and platform for a pilot to capture the work of partners.
- ✓ Set up an officer level group to trial the overall idea of integrating partner's respective evidence bases by focusing on one key environmental well-being topic.
- ✓ Understand how this work may be taken forward in future plans.

What challenges do we face?

- ✓ To respond effectively to the urgent climate and nature challenges we face and deliver the environmental outcomes required to achieve the Powys we want in 2040, we need to enable delivery of targeted, effective and efficient action.

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

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



Lead organisation: Powys County Council

Our environment is one of our biggest assets providing opportunities for a range of outdoor activities, from walking to potholing, kayaking to climbing. We want to make the most of our assets and take advantages of those opportunities. Tourism is also a big part of the local economy which offers opportunities for growth, through increased visitor spends, and by creating new activities and attractions. We will need to work with businesses, existing ones and those just starting up, to identify the best options for creating new activities and attractions.

Powys has some unique attractions, amazing landscapes, safe and welcoming communities and space to breathe. We also have a thriving food and festival market. If Powys is to be the place we want it to be in 2040 we need to promote Powys and its businesses, in Wales and beyond, so that businesses chose to invest here because they can get a premium for their products and people chose to live and work here.

The Mid Wales Growth Deal has been reinforced as the priority activity under which Well-being Steps 9 and 10 will be channelled in the coming years, and its progress towards achieving full deal agreement by March 2022 has been encouraging. Developing the region's infrastructure across the priority economic sectors will see huge benefits to Powys over the 10-year lifespan of the Growth Deal and beyond.

What have we been working on during 2021-22 to deliver our local objectives?

- ✓ The Mid Wales Growth Deal has been reinforced as the priority activity under which Wellbeing Steps 9 and 10 will be channelled in the coming years, and its progress towards achieving full deal agreement, which was secured by UK and Welsh Governments in January 2022 has been encouraging. Developing

the region's infrastructure across the priority economic sectors will see huge benefits to Powys over the 10-year lifespan of the Growth Deal and beyond.

- ✓ Finalised the first phase projects and programmes within the Mid Wales Growth Deal Portfolio by Autumn 2021 and submitted the Portfolio Business Case to UK and Welsh Governments for approval in October 2021.
- ✓ Achieved full deal agreement from UK and Welsh Government for the Mid Wales Growth Deal in January 2022.
- ✓ Maximised funding from UK and Welsh Governments, including Levelling Up Fund, Community Renewal Fund, Transforming Towns Fund, Brilliant Basic's Fund.
- ✓ Secured funding for a Mid Wales Regional Strategic Tourism action plan in summer 2021, procured a contractor in February 2022, and work is underway to deliver the study, which will be completed in summer 2022.
- ✓ Completed the first phase delivery of the ENRaW funded Canals, Communities and Wellbeing Project, recruited projects officers in Spring 2022 to start the delivery on the ground.
- ✓ Liaised with Welsh Government Major Events Unit to attract new events and audiences to Powys from 2022 onwards, starting with the Women's Tour of Britain which will return to Powys for a stage finish in June 2022.

What do we plan to do in 2022-23?

- ✓ Develop/submit Strategic Outline Cases (SOC's) cases for the first phase projects and programmes within the Mid Wales Growth Deal Portfolio by June 2022
- ✓ Formally assess programme/project SOC's in summer/autumn of 2022, before programmes/projects that meet the success criteria move on to the

next stage on business case development.

- ✓ Maximise opportunities for funding and plan the effective delivery of funds secured for Powys from UK and Welsh Governments, eg. Levelling Up Fund, Shared Prosperity Fund, Transforming Towns Fund
- ✓ Complete a new Mid Wales Regional Strategic Tourism action plan by July 2022
- ✓ Complete delivery of the ENRaW funded Canals, Communities and Wellbeing Project by April 2023
- ✓ Liaise with Welsh Government Major Events Unit to attract new events and audiences to Powys from 2022/23 onwards and support the development of the new Wales wide Events Strategy.

What challenges do we face?

- ✓ COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the delivery of Steps 9 and 10. The loss of visitor revenue in 2020/21 is estimated to be around 65%, and it is expected to be 3-5 years before the visitor economy returns to pre Covid-19 levels.
- ✓ Pressure on small rural businesses in Powys has been extremely difficult, and ongoing support for businesses is needed to help restore confidence and support the return of key markets return as quickly as possible for a wide range of Powys products and services.
- ✓ EU Transitional arrangements remain a source of uncertainty for some Powys businesses, particularly those trading with the EU.
- ✓ The current inflationary pressures, cost of living, energy and transport price increases are having an impact on all households and business sectors in Powys.

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



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



Lead organisation: Powys Teaching Health Board

We all want to continue living in our own homes for as long as possible. However, we may need help to do so, whether informally from friends and neighbours or more formal support such as domiciliary care. Many people who live in Powys receive services from a range of departments and organisations. We want to work together across organisations, partners and specialisms to make it easier for you to access the most appropriate support for your needs by whoever is best placed to do that.

Emotional health is as important to well-being as physical health. However mental and emotional ill health is not as obvious sometimes as physical illness. The public sector in Powys employs a lot of people and we want to give them the skills to support each other, their families, friends, their neighbours, and communities. We already have strong and supportive communities and we feel that promoting emotional well-being will make them even better places to live.

Steps 11 and 12 of the PSB Wellbeing Plan have been deployed via the North Powys Wellbeing Programme

What have we been working on during 2021-22 to deliver our local objectives?

- ✓ A key priority has been on further progressing plans for the multi-agency wellbeing campus in Newtown. The Programme Business Case was submitted in November 2020 and endorsed by Welsh Government in March 2022.
- ✓ During this time, we have been able to work on the next stage of the business case planning process, the Strategic Outline Case. We have engaged with communities and stakeholders around what is important to them in relation to the campus and have held various clinical and professional group meetings to

discuss alternative models of care to inform demand and capacity modelling. This work has enabled us to provide further clarity around the potential scope of the scheme and the ambition around the service models we would look to provide from the new facility. At a very high level it also looks at the various options we are considering, the intended benefits and the financial and commercial aspects of the scheme. This business case was approved by Powys Teaching Health Board and Powys County Council in March 2022.

- ✓ Alongside this work. We have continued to engage with a wealth of third sector partners, who have expressed a strong desire to be a part of the programme to achieve the desired outcomes for the population. A partnership approach is being taken to formally link partners into wellbeing and preventative services. A group has been established consisting of wellbeing partners and core programme team members to consider how those links become formalised and how we achieve effective integrated working to implement a social model for health. This group is meeting quarterly and supporting reconnection and joint working.

- ✓ There are a number of accelerated projects funded under the programme which generally demonstrate good progress, although there have been some issues with recruitment which has affected delivery in some areas. During 20-21 case studies, from these accelerated projects were developed to share the good practice and evidence the positive impact they were having on children, young people, families, and citizens.

- ✓ A new sleep diagnostic service in Powys, the service has secured equipment to test people and is now able to offer this service to any Powys resident remotely, so that they don't have to travel to a particular hospital.

- ✓ Powys Teaching Health Board's Digital Transformation Team has teamed up with the Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations (PAVO) and the North Powys Wellbeing Programme to offer local residents support to get online in a pilot project. Residents can now make use of a confidential, safe and secure location at Plas Dolerw on Milford Road, Newtown to 'virtually' attend their

appointment. Support staff are available to provide technical support that may be required in accessing their appointment.

- ✓ Repatriation of Children Looked After – the project is sustaining a fall in the number of out of county placements each quarter and is demonstrating return on investment.
- ✓ Bach A lach - training & support sessions delivered including “cooking together”, “music & movement” and “circus skills training” for schools and pre-schools in Powys. Requests continue from all over Wales to consider how the project can be rolled out in new areas. Feedback from staff and Head Teachers is very positive. In the summer, the team delivered jointly with Powys sports development at a Wales wide conference showcasing their collaborative approach.
- ✓ Drive Through Spirometry project. The pilot has proved very helpful in forming longer-term spirometry plans with a view to explore ways to implement nationally.
- ✓ Powys Together Community Co-ordinators have worked with over 879 children and young people and over 350 families. A range of opportunities and events were organised in line with the 'Summer of Fun' initiative, which meant that families had access to lots of positive experiences over the summer months. Events and activities ranged from arts and crafts, story time, sports, family walks and graffiti projects.
- ✓ Eye care services are being invested in locally and some patients are now being seen locally, preventing people from travelling out of county.

What do we plan to do in 2022-23?

- ✓ Work with staff, communities and other key stakeholders to develop more detailed plans for the multi-agency wellbeing campus. This will be undertaken via a transformation process which will enable fast change through value-based health care models and evidence-based medicine, with a clear focus on improving citizen outcomes and prudent health and care. It will be supported by workshops, to be held face to face at external venues to encourage creative thinking, maximise partnership opportunities through effective networking, as well as a technical process which across the 5

transformation areas, which will have set activities and outputs required to support the requirements of the next business case phase. Focus will include demand, capacity and financial modelling, workforce planning, commissioning and revenue business case development.

- ✓ Accelerated projects funded under the NPWP receiving Regional Integration Funding from Welsh Government for 22 -23, that support citizens to improve their own wellbeing this includes.
- ✓ Digital Engagement which aims to recruit two digital facilitators and one business manager to develop and deliver a programme of digital support and education for potential and existing service users across the north of Powys. Addressing core digital skills, access to equipment, and provide additional support to enable individuals to identify and use reliable sources of information about health and social care, as well as to access core services in the community. Delivered in partnership with the council and third sector organisations.
- ✓ Eye Care, which aims to further develop MDT Eye Care Services for North Powys as part of Pan Powys Eye Care Service Transformation Model in preparation for the commissioning of North Powys Wellbeing Centre. Developing & training a skilled MDT Eye Care workforce to make better use of visiting in reach consultant ophthalmology.
- ✓ Community Training Platform which aims to builds on the success of work delivered previously to provide service users with improved access to electronic resources to support them when making decisions about their health and social care. The platform will host video and interactive content to support a number of health board services. The project would allow services from across the health board to provide a “digital by default” approach to providing support to individuals both now and in the long term with the aim for this concept to be rolled out across services in Powys.

- ✓ Powys Together, funded last year and additionally this year to build further on their success. Working in 4 localities in North Powys to create system change by increasing opportunities to reduce disadvantage for children, young people and their families and ensure that children's, young people's and families' voices are at the centre of what we do. Working with communities, it supports and facilitates activities and events for children, young people and their families.

What challenges do we face?

- ✓ **Capacity** and the risk of fragmentation, the ask of all partners is significant. The pressures of the pandemic on operational teams remains challenging.
- ✓ **Funding** to support with revenue and capital aspects of the programme particularly investment in prevention and early help and support which bring longer term benefits.
- ✓ **Engagement** -Further focus on community engagement is required and there is a need to balance digital and face to face engagement to ensure no one is digitally excluded. Also, accessible information. Ensure close working relationship with school, governors, Renewal along with sharing the benefits of the programme, emphasised for the wider north Powys geographical area.
- ✓ **Partnership** - ensure that no one party is more dominant moving forward to demonstrate the vision and commitment across the partnership.
- ✓ **Governance** - reporting requirements and templates aligned, clarity between the Regional Partnership Board and the NPWP Programme Board.
- ✓ **Balance between campus and model** – A Social model for health being more front and centre of the programme

Five Ways of Working – How are we doing things more sustainably?

We have continued to embrace sustainable working practices as part of planning and delivering each of our steps. We also recognise that we still have a long journey ahead to ensure this way of working is fully adopted and embedded.



How are we balancing short term needs with planning for the longer term?

Our long-term ambitions are set out in our Towards 2040 Plan and are prioritised into four key objectives. The 12 Steps we are taking in the shorter term can be seen as steppingstones for reaching our ambitions. For example, we've started work on improving our digital infrastructure because the way we work and live our lives today is changing rapidly and will continue to do so into the future, especially as working from home becomes the norm for many. Digital technologies are having a big impact on the way we connect with each other, receive information and access a variety of services, and the range of digital options presents us with exciting opportunities to deliver for our residents. We know we need to provide opportunities to improve the digital skills of our residents to improve inclusion for all in the longer term. Our wellbeing information bank continues to be updated with the latest data on economic, cultural, social and environmental topics and we use this data to understand trends and needs. The pandemic has made us think differently about the way we live our lives and the way people want services delivered and this is why we have continued to update our delivery plans throughout the year to reflect new opportunities.

How are we involving people (with an interest) in making decisions?

We recognise that the involvement of our communities and key stakeholders must be at the heart of the work we are doing and that is why one of our Well-being Steps is all about actively engaging with our residents. Over the past year, engagement has been minimal, however as we start to recover from the pandemic and begin the development of our next well-being assessment, engagement with stakeholders is going to be critical to understand what matters to people and using their feedback to influence the decisions we make. Throughout the year our PSB meetings are

available for members of the public to view/ attend and PSB meeting papers and minutes are published on the Council's website.

*How are the steps delivered in **collaboration** with others?*

While each of our 12 Well-being Steps are being led by an individual organisation, a number of delivery groups have been set up to manage the work and these have representation from a variety of organisations (public, private and third sector). Work has also been undertaken to further develop collaboration with Town and Community Councils and ensure integration between the wider PSB plans and local plans. Many partners on the PSB also sit on Regional Partnership Board, which helps to ensure we are working towards the same vision for Powys. We also collaborate with partners outside of Powys and learn from what is working well elsewhere.

*How are we ensuring our plans are **integrated**? This means considering the impact of the Steps on the 7 Well-being goals, on each other and on other plans?*

Where possible we are ensuring that our plans at a PSB level are integrated with the plans and objectives of individual partners organisations and with other local and regional partnerships. This will help ensure that we are all working towards the same vision and that there is a clear golden thread running between our plans. A well-being planning and delivery group, made up of officers from all PSB partners meets throughout the year to discuss progress against our well-being steps and to look for opportunities for better integration. Where possible, we are also looking at solutions for integrating our data to provide information on the most effective collaborative approach to meet the needs of our residents, especially those most vulnerable.

*How are we **preventing** problems happening in the first place or getting worse?*

Prevention continues to be an underpinning principle across all our Well-being Steps but is more clearly evident in some than others. For example, our step to develop a carbon positive strategy will ensure action to mitigate the risks of climate change and will contribute to the well-being of future generations. Working together on decarbonisation, rather than individually, will make a bigger difference to emissions in Powys and we can influence our communities to join in. Our steps to improve

transport and digital infrastructure also aim to prevent unnecessary or cleaner travel. And our step around lifelong learning and skills aims to prevent unemployment, poverty and improved well-being.

Seven Well-Being Goals

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 required Welsh Ministers to set national indicators to assess progress towards achieving the 7 Well-being Goals. Outlined below are some of the key indicators, which are most relevant to our four objectives. Based on the most recent data available, they show the level of progress in Powys compared to Wales as a whole.



People in Powys will experience a stable and thriving economy

Indicator	Powys	Wales	Date
Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour worked (relative to UK average)	58%	73%	2019
Gross Disposable Household Income per head	85.3	80.5	2019
Percentage of people moderately or very satisfied with their jobs.	85%	82%	2020
Percentage of people in employment.	75.7	74.7	Year End 2021

People in Powys will enjoy a sustainable and productive environment



Indicator	Powys	Wales	Date
Amount of waste generated that is not recycled, per person	173kg	141kg	2019-20
Capacity (in MW) of renewable energy equipment installed	388mw	4059mw	2019

People in will be healthy, socially motivated and responsible



Indicator	Powys	Wales	Date
Healthy life expectancy at birth including the gap between the least and most deprived.	Male = 80.2 Female = 83.6	Male = 78.2 Female = 82.3	2010- 2014
Percentage of adults who have fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours (not smoking, healthy weight, eat five fruit or vegetables a day, not drinking above guidelines and meet the physical activity guidelines).	8%	10%	2020
Mean mental well-being score for people	Adults – 51.7	Adults – 51.7	2019-20

People in Powys will be connected by strong communities and a vibrant culture



Indicator	Powys	Wales	Date
Percentage who feel able to influence decisions affecting their local area.	25%	26%	2020-21
Percentage of people satisfied with local area as a place to live	93%	87%	2020-21
Percentage of people who volunteer.	32%	26%	2019-20
Percentage of people attending or participating in arts, culture or heritage activities at least three times a year	71%	71%	2019-20
Percentage of people satisfied with their ability to get to/ access the facilities and services they need	85%	87%	2019-20

Percentage of people agreeing that they belong to the area; that people from different backgrounds get on well together; and that people treat each other with respect	78%	69%	2020-21
Percentage of people who are lonely	15%	16%	2019-20

Our overall assessment of wellbeing

As a PSB, we are accountable to the residents of Powys, and this annual report provides assurance of the progress we are making against our plan. In some cases, progress has either been very slow or delayed completely over the past year, as organisations emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic and begin to resume business as usual activity. However, many benefits have been realised such as continued roll out of electric vehicle charging points, the continue maximisation of volunteers, apprenticeship opportunities promotions and endorsement of the business case for the multi-agency campus in North Powys from Welsh Government.



These important milestones have been a step in the right direction, helping us on the journey to reach our long-term vision and meet the national Well-being Goals. We know that we must reflect on where we are as a partnership and that there are opportunities where we could be working together better, such as tackling climate change, supporting people living in poverty and enabling economic recovery. Commitment from PSB partners continues to be positive and we will continue to look for opportunities to invite new partners where relevant. We must remember that the challenge before us is about affecting longer term change, and this will take time. However, we are keen to ensure we build on the partnership working that has taken place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and will look to build on these opportunities. During the year ahead, we will use the findings of the last comprehensive well-being assessment alongside the [well-being information bank](#), to understand what is important to improving outcomes for residents of Powys, as use this to shape the next well-being plan.