

Meeting 28

7th of March 2022, 13:30pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

MINUTES

Present:

Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn (EaG)	Chair, Ceredigion County Council
Eifion Evans (EE)	Ceredigion County Council
Alun Williams (AW)	Ceredigion County Council
Barry Rees (BR)	Ceredigion County Council
Hazel Lloyd-Lubran (HLL)	CAVO
Iwan Cray (IC)	Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Gwilym Dyfri Jones (GDJ)	University of Wales Trinity Saint David
Anna Bird (AB)	Hywel Dda University Health Board
Cllr Elwyn Williams (EW)	Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Gillian Wells (GW)	Natural Resources Wales
Jan Batty (JB)	Public Health Wales
Dr Phil Kloer (PK)	Hywel Dda University Health Board
Duncan Hamer (DH)	Welsh Government
Jo McCarthy (JM)	Public Health Wales
Gavin Bown (GB)	Natural Resources Wales
Pedr ap Llwyd (PaLI)	National Library of Wales

Also in attendance:

Rob Starr (RS)	Ceredigion County Council
Mari Hopkins (MH)	Ceredigion County Council
Caitlin Theodorou (CT)	Ceredigion County Council
Pat Smith (PS)	Department of Work and Pensions
Dewi Day (DD)	Aberystwyth University
Helen Griffith (HG)	Coleg Ceredigion/ Sir Gar
Amy Richmond-Jones (ARJ)	Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Carys Huntly (CH)	Ceredigion County Council
David Burch (DB)	CLES

PSB Support team:

Diana Davies (DD)	Corporate Manager, Partnership and Performance (CCC)
Manon Horscroft (MH)	Support Officer (CCC)
Cathryn Morgan (CM)	Partnerships Manager (Temp.) (CCC)
Lynne Walters (LW)	Partnerships Officer (CCC)

29.1 Apologies, introductions & disclosures of interest

The Chair began the meeting by welcoming all. There were no disclosures of interest.

Apologies:

- Carwyn Young, Ceredigion County Council
- Elen James, Ceredigion County Council
- Maria Battle, Hywel Dda University Health Board
- Vanessa Cashmore, Coleg Ceredigion/Coleg Sir Gar
- Dr Andrew Cornish, Coleg Ceredigion/ Coleg Sir Gar
- Rhodri Llwyd Morgan, Aberystwyth University
- Christine Harley, HM Prisons and Probation Service
- Carys Morgan, Police and Crime Commissioner's Office
- Ben Davies, One Voice Wales

29.2 Minutes of previous Ceredigion PSB meeting – 18.11.21

The minutes from the meeting held on 18.11.21 were agreed as a true record.

29.3 Matters arising from previous meeting

No matters arose from the previous meeting.

29.4 Correspondence from NRW: Nature and Us – What future do we want for our Natural Environment?

CM provided a brief details on behalf of NRW on their “Nature and Us” engagement. They wish to commence a national debate through a series of events and activities. With the National campaign having been launched on the 17th of February NRW are proposing to host a number of consultation sessions in order to talk to both partners and the public. These will have the specific aim of building a vision for the future of the environment of Wales for 2030-2050. NRW Will be working in partnership and will be running several focused workshops on how to undertake these discussions effectively to drive this work forward. The five key these will be considered :

1. What do people need to identify as the key to the future?
2. If things went well, be optimistic but realistic on a desirable outcome.
3. If things go wrong what factors, will people be concerned about?
4. People need to think of different scenarios of the future.
5. What is everyone willing to change?

NRW have asked all PSB's across Wales to be part of this national conversation and links to these discussions have been distributed through Social Media platforms. Partners will shortly be receiving additional details, invitations and links for themselves and colleagues to engage.

ACTION: PSB Support Team to circulate the three NRW workshop dates to members.

29.5 Report and action plan – “Creating Wealth in the Foundational Economy” – CLES

DB attended the PSB meeting on behalf of John Heneghan to provide a presentation based on the report and action plan for the Creating Wealth in the Foundation Economy project. The report had been circulated to members in advance of today's meeting thus enabling DB to focus on a summary of the main findings and conclusions of this initial stage which came to an end in December 2021.

DB highlighted that this project adopted a people based approach to delivering an inclusive economy with its aim to increase the flow of wealth back into local economies. He also highlighted that this approach recognises the limitations of a “growth first” economic strategy.

DB outlined that a series of workshops were initially arranged for April 2020 but these were cancelled due to the Covid pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns which were imposed on all areas. The programme was subsequently re-profiled, based on remote delivery and, as anchor capacity was directed towards responding to the pandemic, the initial work for this project focused on data analysis.

A brief description of the objectives for the project was provided and it was outlined that 5 focus groups were held for the Mid Wales region (Ceredigion & Powys) :

1. Construction and retrofit.
2. Enhancing opportunities for SME's.
3. Support for generative suppliers.
4. Food Procurement.
5. Business start-ups.

Overall reflections were provided to members on the importance of sharing data and knowledge for the benefit of local development. It was noted that this programme has brought anchor institutions of different sizes and sectors together and this has led to the development of new relationships and connections. CLES would be happy to discuss further details with individual partners or on a collectively basis should this be of interest to PSB partners.

The Chair invited members to ask questions or comment on the content of the report and presentation.

AB thanked DB and noted that this work will fit in very well with future agenda items and would be an important resource that partners can work on.

DH commented that Community Wealth building within the region needs to be actioned and should reflect best practice. There are opportunities for further work which will then be accompanied by practical implementation steps and it was suggested that this may include the establishment of a project bank.

Dr PK made reference to the availability and suitability of the local workforce, in particular within the construction industry and stated that any examples of good practice need to be shared, particularly if development has been directly aided by an investment in apprenticeships in the local area.

IC asked a specific question as to whether CLES have had direct thoughts on the potential conflicts between scope 3 emissions targets (from a sustainability point of view) and the direct support of local SMEs.

DB responded by noting that there are many examples available across the UK where local companies have been prioritised however practical changes within the business support mechanism is crucial to support this. DB agreed to provide this feedback to John Heneghan and seek further clarification, as appropriate on the issues raised.

The Chair thanked DB for his attendance at the meeting and for the work which had been undertaken by CLES on this project.

29.6 Assessment of Local Well-being

RS provided the latest update on the development stages of the Assessment of Local Well-being. He noted that during the last PSB meeting held in November, the Draft Assessment was approved by members to go out to public consultation. The public consultation took place between, December '21- End of January '22. The team received a total of 25 responses from the public and the nature of these consultation responses were very detailed. The Assessment has been viewed nationally and has been very well received by the Future Generations for Wales Office and colleagues at WG. Overall, both are very pleased with the draft and many positive points have been received.

The team have now reviewed and addressed the comments made by the Future Generations for Wales Office and WG officers and members can view this feedback in the papers provided for today's meeting.

Locally, RS noted that the team have received a mixed response to the document with many comments being made about the Environment and Health. In response to this RS noted that he had to extend the writing period for another month in order to go through the detailed feedback. This work has now been undertaken and RS thanked everyone for their comment support and feedback.

RS noted that a full debrief of the consultation is planned and this will be led by the PSB/RPB Network Group who have been co-ordinating this work. Members were also reminded that they may view the latest draft of the assessment with today's meeting papers. The publication date for the Assessment continues to be by May 2022.

The Chair thanked RS and the team for their detailed work.

DECISION: Members agreed to the sign off of the Assessment of Local Well-being.

29.7

Local Well-being Plan – draft objectives

Following the workshop held for PSB members on the 11th of February, CM presented the four draft objectives for consideration and feedback from members. The four draft objectives which have been prepared following the Workshop are:

1. We will work together to achieve a sustainable economy that benefits local people and builds on the strengths of Ceredigion.
2. We will work together to reduce inequalities in our communities and use social and green solutions to improve physical and mental health.
3. We will work together to deliver decarbonisation initiatives within Ceredigion to protect and enhance our natural resources.
4. We will work together to enable communities to feel safe and connected and will promote cultural diversity and increase opportunities to use the Welsh language.

Dr PK emphasised the importance of the first objective around the outward migration of young people as it is staggering to see how much of an issue this is in Ceredigion. Secondly, Dr PK noted that in addition to green solutions blue solutions also need to be considered within the draft objectives. Finally he noted that in terms of equalities, there is a major question centred on how to tackle inequalities and indeed when you start to ask how you are going to do this the answer will lie within the support and initiatives which sit underneath it.

ACTION: Cathryn Morgan to consider the explanatory detail to go with the first objective to ensure that the impact of inequality on the most disadvantaged within our communities is taken into account when developing the actions taken to address this objective.

DECISION: Members endorsed the draft objectives and agreed to the commencement of the work on the Local Well-being Plan.

29.8

PSB Place Based Pilot Project Updates

i. Carbon Neutral Aberystwyth and Decarbonisation Strategy:

Dewi Day (DD) provided a brief update on the work of this pilot group. The project has had funding from BAIS to cover the full feasibility cost of the Techno Economic Feasibility Study for the District Heat Network. This work has now started in the northern area of Aberystwyth town. They are now arranging a site visit to obtain a greater understanding of the local heat network and future requirements. This initial phase of this work will take 3-4 months. Within the last meeting, the group agreed to widen their remit to also focus on decarbonisation actions undertaken by partners on an individual and collective basis in Aberystwyth town. The group is now bringing WG Energy Services representation into the meetings in order to consider the Mid-Wales energy plan and to explore how partners can interface and influence a local strategy.

ii. Community Health and Social Solutions for Tackling Poverty and Promoting Well Being in Cardigan:

HLL updated members on the progress made with this pilot project. RS and the team have pulled together a paper providing the baseline statistics for the Teifi, Rhydyfowch and Mwdan wards in Cardigan. These include two of most deprived areas in Ceredigion. As a group, they have decided to share the paper with members of the PSB as it includes very significant and interesting indicators for partners. Sub-groups have been established within the group and these are focusing their work on:

- Mapping assets
- Investment
- Targeting provision

iii. Well-being in Lampeter:

CM gave a brief overview of this pilot project on behalf of the pilot Chair, Elen James who was unable to be present today. The first meeting was held at the end of January. Many partners attended and the shared details of their priorities and strategies which were specific to Lampeter and surrounding area. The second meeting was held on the 4th of March and during this meeting members were split into three subgroups which focused on:

- Anti-social Behaviour
- Food, Physical and Environmental Wellbeing
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health

An initial plan of short term and long term actions has been formulated to address matters within these three action areas with the overall objective of a multi-agency approach to improving levels of well-being in the Lampeter area.

28.9 Tackling Hardship Strategy Update

The update report from CM had been circulated in advance with the meeting papers. The Poverty sub-group met on 21st of January 2022. A progress report on the Tackling Hardship action plan (April-Sept 2021) was presented and this focused on specific issues that could be more effectively addressed by a multi-agency approach. The main concerns are low incomes, debt, recruitment difficulties (particularly in the childcare sector), public transport and an increase in mental health and well-being issues.

The current Tackling Hardship Strategy is due to end in 2022 and the Poverty sub-group agreed to extend it for a further 12 months in order to bring it into line with the new Well-being plan, which will commence in April 2023.

ACTION: A link to the Data Dashboard for the Tackling Hardship Strategy is to be shared with PSB members following the meeting.

29.10 Feedback from Ceredigion County Council Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 1st December, 2021

CM reported that the Committee was happy to approve the minutes of the last PSB meeting held on the 18th November, 2021. Also, following a presentation by RS and CT at their meeting members provided feedback and accepted the Assessment of Local Well-being.

29.11 Any Other Business

The Chair noted that Ceredigion County Council is ready to help with any Refugees arriving from Ukraine.

To conclude the meeting the Chair confirmed that this would be her last meeting as Chair of the PSB and confirmed her retirement from Ceredigion County Council following the elections. The Chair thanked members for their support and contributions throughout the meetings.

Members extended their sincere thanks to the Chair for all her work with the PSB and the Local Authority and they extended their best wishes on her in retirement.

No further business was raised.

29.12

Date of next meeting:

13th of June 2022, 9.30-11.30