

**Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee held at the Council Chamber, Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion, Penmorfa, Aberaeron and remotely on Wednesday, 22 March 2023**

**Present:** Councillor Keith Evans (Chair), Councillors Wyn Evans (Vice-Chair), Marc Davies, Endaf Edwards, Gwyn Wigley Evans, Rhodri Evans, Geraint Wyn Hughes and Ceris Jones.

**Also in attendance:** Councillors Hugh Hughes and Gareth Lloyd.

**Cabinet Members present:** Councillors Keith Henson and Wyn Thomas.

**Officers in attendance:** Diana Davies, Corporate Manager, Partnerships and Performance; Naomi McDonagh, Partnerships and Civil Contingencies Manager; Hazel Lloyd-Lubran, Chief Executive, CAVO; Harry Dimmack, Governance Officer; Lisa Evans, Standards and Scrutiny Officer and Neris Morgans, Democratic Services Officer.

(10.00am-11.42am)

**1 Apologies**

- i. Councillors Bryan Davies, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Democratic Services, Policy, Performance and People and Organisation, Caryl Roberts and Chris James apologised for their inability to attend the meeting.
- ii. Councillor Matthew Vaux, Cabinet Member for Partnerships, Housing, Legal and Governance and Public Protection apologised for his inability to attend the meeting due to other Council commitments.

**2 Disclosures of personal interest (including whipping declarations) Members are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and prejudicial interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Members Code of Conduct. In addition, Members must declare any prohibited party whip which the Member has been given in relation to the meeting as per the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011**

There were no disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests (including whipping declarations) from Committee Members.

**3 Ceredigion Local Well-being Plan and the Ceredigion Public Services Board (PSB) meetings held on the 6th March 2023**

Hazel Lloyd-Lubran presented the report on the Ceredigion Local Well-being Plan in the absence of Councillor Bryan Davies. The public consultation on the draft Ceredigion Local Well-being Plan 2023-2028 ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2023. Changes and improvements including those suggested by the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales and Welsh Government have been completed. All PSB member organisations considered the proposed amendments in their meeting on the 6th of March 2023, with a view to

approve the Plan through their usual governance arrangements before the PSB can give final approval to publish the Plan in May 2023.

Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions which were answered by Hazel Lloyd-Lubran, Naomi McDonagh and Diana Davies. The main points raised were as follows:

- A higher response rate to the consultation was expected; however, consultation fatigue was acknowledged as a possible factor for the low response rate. In addition, given the early engagement of partners in the process, there was less feedback from these bodies as they had already contributed to plan development.
- In terms of the consultation process, a range of organisations were contacted, a social media campaign was held, details were included on the Council's online consultation page, and it was raised at numerous meetings including at Ceredigion's Youth Council meeting. An engagement exercise was undertaken with 13 primary and 3 secondary schools across the county and groups including the Disability Forum were consulted. Posters and paper copies were available in libraries and leisure/ wellbeing centres. All PSB Partners had a responsibility to ensure people's views were known. In moving forward, ongoing engagement and discussions with communities would be beneficial along with reinventing how views and opinions were gathered.
- Whilst it was important to consider the 12% who disagreed that the 5 well-being objectives were the right priorities, it is pleasing to note that 88% agreed. It was also important to consider the numbers involved as opposed to percentages given the low response rate. The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales and Welsh Government have commented on the robustness of the Assessment of Local Well-being including the engagement which led to the plan being formed, and therefore, officers were confident that the priorities were correct and reflected the views of partners and the public.
- Concerns were raised that although Welsh Government (WG) were ambitious in its plans, there was no funding available for local authorities to achieve this. The Local Well-being Plan would lead to further collaboration between the PSB Partners and WG and hopefully, by focusing on the priorities, it would aid in the delivery of the plan. Councillor Keith Henson (Cabinet Member) noted that WG attended the Carbon Management and Climate Change Group and contributed to the discussions but agreed that further collaboration was important.
- Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire PSBs work independently but closely to ensure there is a consistent approach for all involved. The priorities may vary in each PSBs Local Well-being Plan, however, the regional priorities and those of individual bodies were considered in the process of developing the plan.
- In terms of monitoring the work, an Annual Report is produced detailing the performance of the PSB, which is sent to The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales and other statutory recipients on an annual basis

- The membership of Ceredigion PSB has been consistent with 4 Statutory Member Organisations (as directed by Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and numerous invited participant organisations. There was currently an opportunity to review the membership of the invited participant organisations and to ensure the correct organisations and people were involved to undertake the work on behalf of the PSB. The importance of drawing people who could make a difference when discussions were more local was highlighted.

The Chair extended his best wishes to Naomi McDonagh as she leaves her role with the authority and thanked her for her hard work over the years.

Following questions by the Committee Members, it was agreed to receive the Ceredigion Local Well-being Plan and associated Integrated Impact Assessment.

Hazel Lloyd-Lubran presented the minutes of the Ceredigion PSB meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2023 to the Committee. Reference was given to the following points as discussed at the meeting:

- The level of response to the Local Well-being Plan 2023-28 consultation and suggestions for the future was discussed extensively.
- A presentation on the launch of the public consultation on the location of the new planned and urgent care hospital was provided. It was noted that a stakeholder group would be formed to discuss transport and accessibility to the sites; however hopefully, the scope of this group could be extended wider than the new hospital alone. The importance of mental health services available locally was discussed too.
- PSB Place-Based Pilot Project Updates
- Update related to the Gorwel data system and Welsh Government's interest in a similar resource nationally.
- April's PSB meeting Agenda

The Chair explained that a workshop had been held with Hywel Dda University Health Board and elected members on the location of the new planned and urgent care hospital.

Following questions by the Committee Members, it was agreed to receive the draft minutes of the Ceredigion PSB meeting held on 6th March 2023.

#### **4 Report on Amendments to the Whistleblowing Policy**

In Councillor Matthew Vaux's absence, Harry Dimmack explained that a report on amendments to the Whistleblowing Policy was last presented to the committee on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2018, which was later approved by Cabinet on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June 2018. An overview of the key amendments as shown in tracked changes in Appendix 1 of the report was provided. The address for Audit Wales would be amended before the report was presented to Cabinet.

Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions which were answered by Harry Dimmack. The main points raised were as follows:

- As there were only minor changes to the policy, presenting the policy to Scrutiny and Cabinet was sufficient.
- In the event a person wished to raise a concern externally, the relevant contact details were noted on page 8 of the policy.

Following questions by the Committee Members, it was agreed to recommend that Cabinet approves the amendments to the Whistleblowing Policy as shown in Appendix 1, subject to updating the contact details for Audit Wales.

**5 To confirm minutes of the previous meeting and to consider any matters arising from those minutes**

It was agreed to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2023.

Matters arising: None.

**6 To receive a update from the Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and to consider the draft Forward Work Programmes**

Each Chair (or Vice-chair in the Chair's absence) in turn, gave an update on their respective Committee's Forward Work Plans.

1. Coordinating Committee

The Chair provided an update in relation to the Coordinating Committee's future work plan.

2. Learning Communities

The Chair noted that following consideration by the committee, feedback on the 23/24 budget setting process and Ceredigion Deprivation and Equity Strategy was presented during a meeting of the Cabinet on 14th February 2023. An update in relation to the committee's future work plan was provided and as part of the workstream, members visited Plascrug Community Primary School and Ysgol Bro Siôn Cwilt on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023.

3. Thriving Communities

The Chair explained that following a meeting of a Task and Finish Group on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023, a Special Meeting had been held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 to discuss waste collection further with officers. An update in relation to the Thriving Communities future work plan was provided. An invite had been sent to National Resources Wales to attend a meeting in June to discuss Climate Change and Coastal Erosion / Flooding, but no response had yet been received. It was agreed to extend an invite to Welsh Water Dŵr Cymru to attend the meeting and Sarah Groves-Phillips, Service Manager - Planning Policy.

4. Corporate Resources

The Chair explained that the work of the Task and Finish Group around County Farms was ongoing. In relation to the rules around NVZs imposed on the agricultural sector, the Chair clarified that officers had visited and undertaken an assessment of the farms accordingly. An update in relation to the meeting held on 13th March 2023 was provided. Given the proposed budget cuts, the Chair encouraged all Overview and Scrutiny Committees to consider this in moving forward and to look for areas to make savings.

5. Healthier Communities

In the Chair's absence, Councillor Ceris Jones, Vice- Chair provided an update in relation to the Healthier Communities future work plan. Councillor Ceris Jones stated that she would clarify the title of the report on the inspection of food outlets, as the Forward Work Programme differed in English and Welsh.

**Confirmed at the Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating  
Committee held on 22 May 2023**

**Chairman:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_