

My Ref: T: Scrutiny/PRAP/Comm Papers/Correspondence

Date: 22 November 2017



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Councillor Huw Thomas,  
Leader,  
Cardiff Council,  
County Hall,  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW

Dear Councillor Thomas,

### **Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee: 15 November 2017**

On behalf of the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee thank you for attending Committee to facilitate scrutiny of Cardiff's draft Well-being Plan. Members were delighted to welcome such broad representation from Cardiff's PSB. Please pass on our sincere thanks to Cardiff & Vale Heath Board, Natural Resources Wales, South Wales Fire Service, South Wales Police, and Cardiff Third Sector Council. The Members wish to pass on the following comments and observations as statutory consultees in the Boards consultation.

The Committee recognises that the Well-being of Future Generations Act signals a substantial change in the delivery of public services. We note the Future Generations Commissioner's comment in her letter that it is not intended to be an additional burden on public bodies, given current financial pressures. We are therefore surprised at the length and timing of the Commissioners advisory letter on Cardiff's draft well-being plan, and note this advice would have been useful in informing the consultation. We are heartened that partners consider the requirements of the WBFG Act, although a challenge, an opportunity and a necessity that will assist in the delivery of sustainable services, rather than a burden on the public sector. Clearly, this challenge will benefit from the strong platform of partnership working built up over many years in Cardiff,

As Leader, you are clear that there must be a strong correlation between Cardiff's

Well-Being Plan and the Council's Corporate Plan for Delivering Capital Ambition. We too consider it is essential that all partners' corporate plans align with Cardiff's Well-being Plan, and will be seeking greater assurance of this in future scrutinies. We feel both Natural Resources Wales and Cardiff and Vale Health Board were clear this would be the case, and we would urge that all partners are able to demonstrate clear links.

The Committee's role is to monitor the progress of the PSB and we consider this is made more difficult by an absence of clear targets in the draft Plan. We note you are following a statutory timeline to deliver the final Plan. We understand you are not at the target setting stage and have some work to do on performance indicators. However, we feel it would have been useful if targets had been a part of the consultation exercise and urge you to consult on those targets as they emerge.

Members have some concerns about budget arrangements for partnership working. Specifically, whether all partner bodies are spending proportionately on supporting partnership arrangements and whether the cost of supporting the PSB is factored into the Council's budget setting for 2018/19. We accept there is no centralised budget other than a secretariat to support partnership working, and note there will be more detail in budget proposals. We note the alignment of policy objectives, and directing existing activities to work more effectively, is critical to better collaborative work.

In respect of specific objectives, the Committee observed:

Objective 1 - *A Capital City that Works for Wales*. We wish to highlight the disparity in wealth across the City and endorse the view that everyone should have an equal chance to benefit from Cardiff's success. In terms of the private sector, Cardiff is a unique asset, with power centralised to drive the South East Wales economy. However, we note Cardiff is one of the lowest funded authorities per capita and generates significant business rates for the whole of Wales. We are therefore pleased that you acknowledge Cardiff has a leading role to play in ensuring major developments assist in reducing inequalities across the City. The committee would encourage you to continue to stress these funding imbalances in your future contacts with Welsh Government

Objective 2 - *Cardiff's Population Growth is managed in a Resilient Way*. The Committee considers the phrasing of this objective suggests managing population growth to ensure resources for current and future populations, and could be more accurately phrased as *The impact of Cardiff's Population Growth is managed in a resilient way*.

Objective 3 - *Safe, Confident and Empowered Communities*. Members note the consultation is online but certain communities require a stronger focus/more encouragement to contribute and therefore a series of focus groups are planned with hard to reach communities that will talk about community issues not simply the Plan. We note the police development work to be more representative and connect with communities via their community cohesion programme, and encourage partners to share knowledge and experience of work with hard to reach communities.

The Committee urges the Board to use partnership knowledge to effectively integrate services. There was clear commitment from partners, and we endorse the approach highlighted by Health to ask what is best for the citizen and work backwards to arrive at the bodies/partners that should work together to deliver improved service. The Multi Agency Support Hub is a particularly good example.

We wish to re-iterate it would be appropriate that the Well-being Plan is Health Impact Assessed at the planning stage, in line with the Public Health Act.

Members are concerned that transformation in service delivery should not be isolated to the public sector. We consider some ambitions will need to be in tandem with the private sector, business, and charities. Therefore, care should be taken to ensure the Plan includes reference to communicating with, and involving, the private sector to seek their ideas and feedback.

Importantly, during the Way Forward Members commented on the look and feel of the Well-being Plan Survey document. They feel statements are generally positive and closed, and have some concerns that in taking this approach the consultation document does not open up debate. Therefore, we respectfully suggest future

consultation exercises would have greater credibility if a more open style of questioning were adopted.

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Finally, the Committee is delighted that partners are welcoming of the scrutiny framework, recognising that the joint challenge of partners in holding the Board to account re-enforces the benefits of strong relationships between partners. We note that you have commissioned a review of partnership governance arrangements that will need to be in place in advance of publication of the final Well-being plan in May 2018, and look forward to oversight of governance arrangements, in line with our statutory scrutiny responsibilities.

Once again, on behalf of the Committee, please pass my sincere thanks to all partners who attended the PRAP Scrutiny Committee for consideration of the draft Well-being Plan. We value the ongoing constructive exchange between the Board and the Committee. We are not expecting a response however would ask that you factor our comments and observations into the consultation to inform the final Plan. We will factor consideration of the final Well-being Plan and governance arrangements on our work programme for the New Year.

Yours sincerely,



**COUNCILLOR DAVID WALKER CHAIR, POLICY REVIEW AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

cc Members of the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee  
Paul Orders, Chief Executive  
Gareth Newell, Partnership & Community Engagement Manager  
Maria Battle, Chair, Cardiff & Vale Health Board  
Gareth O'Shea, Natural Resources Wales  
David Bents, South Wales Fire Service  
Superintendent Stephen Jones, South Wales Police  
Sheila Hendrickson-Brown, Chief Executive

Joanne Watkins, Cabinet Office Manager Debbie  
Said, PA to Leader.