

Date: 26 June 2018

Councillor Huw Thomas,  
Leader,  
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Dear Councillor Thomas,

### **Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee: 20 June 2018**

On behalf of the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee thank you for attending Committee to facilitate scrutiny of the Public Services Board governance arrangements. I am writing to you as Chair of the Board; however, Members were delighted to welcome Cardiff & Vale Health Board, Natural Resources Wales, and South Wales Fire Service at Committee, and would be grateful if you would pass on our appreciation. We offer the following comments and observations for you to draw to the Boards attention.

The Committee is reassured that the Delivery Plan for the Well-being Plan is in place and has been agreed by all partners. We note that the PSB is evolving as the partnership policy context continues to evolve. However, projects are now coming through whose progress will be captured within the PSB's first Annual report. We will therefore programme pre-publication consideration of the Annual Report on our 2018/19 work programme.

Members understand the point made by several partners that the PSB cannot deliver all of their organisation's priorities. However, we remain unclear as to whether mapping of partner's Plans has been undertaken, or whether there is an intention to do so in future. We feel this is important and there is a need to demonstrate how partners are taking forward the Well-being priorities within their own Strategic Plans. Therefore, Members consider it will be useful to have sight of other partners Strategic Plans as background to future scrutinies.

The Committee wishes to highlight the importance of partners creating the right environment to unlock barriers. We were advised of the seniority of those partners at the table, who can ensure this happens, however we feel this line of inquiry was not fully answered, and wish to re-iterate that we consider a culture of unlocking barriers to partnership working is critical throughout an organisation.

Members wish to reinforce the point that meetings of Boards alone does not equal action. There is some concern that the complexity of arrangements may get in the way of delivery, and going forward the Committee may consider this issue in greater depth.

At present, the Committee is unclear as to how it will be able to measure progress, specifically what projects, proposals, and targets will enable us to hold the PSB to account. We note that Health colleagues consider the indicators are in the Plan, referring to the example of healthy weight actions throughout the Plan. To bring more clarity we wish to take you up on your offer to elaborate exactly how progress can be measured.

The Committee is keen to ensure that membership of the programme boards is constituted to ensure diversity. We note that the PSB programme boards focus on key projects however, they are not bodies that represent all stakeholders, and that differentiation across the boards inevitable. We also accept that other bodies such as the City Deal Board provide avenues for private sector interest.

Members would like greater detail as to what task and finish inquiries, such as that constituted to look at the implications of BREXIT for Cardiff, will achieve, and how we as a committee can monitor.

Finally, in respect of the future scrutiny of partnership arrangements, there is general agreement that, whilst there is value in other scrutiny committees looking at the work of the programme boards relevant to their Terms of Reference, this Committee should remain the main point of contact with the PSB. Where difficult issues emerge with specific projects then we can decide to refer the matter to the relevant scrutiny committee.

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 governance arrangements. As we have said previously we value the ongoing constructive exchange between the Board and the Committee. We will factor consideration of the Board's first Annual Report on our 2018/19 work programme. In the meantime, I would be grateful for a response as there are requests for additional information included in this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'David Walker', with a stylized, cursive script.

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

cc Members of the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee  
Paul Orders, Chief Executive  
Sarah McGill, Corporate Director, People & Communities  
Maria Battle, Chair, Cardiff & Vale Health Board  
Fiona Kinghorn, Deputy Director of Public Health  
Gareth O'Shea, Natural Resources Wales  
David Bents, South Wales Fire Service  
Gareth Newell, Partnership & Community Engagement Manager  
Dylan Owen, Head of Cabinet Office  
Joanne Watkins, Cabinet Office Manager  
Debbie Said, PA to Leader.