



9.30am, Monday 6 July 2020
Microsoft Teams Meeting

MINUTES

Present

Name	Organisation
Barry Liles (Chair)	University of Wales Trinity Saint David
Cllr Emlyn Dole	Carmarthenshire County Council
Sarah Jennings	Hywel Dda University Health Board
Huwel Manley	Natural Resources Wales
Prof. Jean White	Welsh Government
Ruth Mullen	Carmarthenshire County Council
Julian Atkins	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Kevin Jones	Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Cllr Jan Curtice	Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service Authority
Andrew Cornish	Coleg Sir Gâr
Supt Ifan Charles	Dyfed Powys Police
Marie Mitchell	Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services
Martyn Palfreman	West Wales Regional Partnership Board
Menna Davies	Department for Work and Pensions
Anna Bird	Hywel Dda University Health Board
Mark Galbraith	Llanelli Rural Community Councils

In attendance

Name	Organisation
Gwyneth Ayers	Carmarthenshire County Council
Kate Harrop	Carmarthenshire County Council
Wendy Phillips	Carmarthenshire County Council
Gareth Jones	Swansea Bay City Deal (Item 1 & 2)
John Williams	Carmarthenshire County Council (Item 1 & 2)
Daron Herbert	Natural Resources Wales

1. Welcome and Apologies

Barry Liles, Chair of the PSB welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting and guests were introduced.

Apologies	
Name	Organisation
Ros Jervis	Hywel Dda University Health Board
Christine Harley	National Probation Service
Carys Morgans	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Maria Battle	Hywel Dda University Health Board

2. Digital Connectivity

Gareth Jones, Digital Infrastructure Lead for Swansea Bay City Deal provided a presentation with the following points highlighted:

- Digital Connectivity includes full fibre broadband and/or mobile (4G or 5G in future) and any other mobile or wireless networks.
- An action plan was devised following thorough research, scoping what we have/do not have, the challenges, opportunities and how to best support the county given its importance to residents, communities, businesses etc.
- Current Broadband Coverage:
 - Wales 94.8%
 - Carmarthenshire 87.1% - this has increased by 1.1% (equivalent to 1,000 premises) since the slides were produced.
 - 12,838 Carmarthenshire premises cannot access the EU definition of superfast broadband (above 30 meg download).
- Current Mobile Coverage:
 - 90% of Wales has access to good 4G from at least one operator
 - 57% has coverage from all four mobile network operators
- There are issues with coverage due to topology and geography.
- Of the 87.1% who have access to Superfast Broadband, the uptake across Wales is only 38% (urban 41%, rural 26%). Driving the uptake would also drive the commercial viability and investment.
- Current activity across the Region to improve the situation:
 - Digital Connectivity Seminar was held for Elected Members in December 2019. Openreach and others were invited, and awareness raised of the issues and potentials.
 - Superfast Cymru 2 investment will benefit 2,000 Carmarthenshire premises (residential and businesses). An announcement is imminent which is believed will benefit an additional 3,000 premises.
 - Openreach announced earlier this year a significant commercial investment in full fibre bill for rural areas. Carmarthenshire is the only West Wales authority on the list. 19 communities will benefit from this investment.
 - Stakeholder Engagement – building relationships with all stakeholders e.g. Ofcom, Welsh Government, UK Government in particular the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.
 - Internal Department, Policies and Strategies is a powerful lever with a Digital Infrastructure Steering Group set up in Carmarthenshire to tackle various issues.
 - Swansea Bay City Deal’s Digital Infrastructure Project has an investment of up to £55m.
 - WG’s Rural Broadband Task Force meet monthly and feed into WG lobbying and work programme.

- Digital Connectivity Officer has been employed by CCC and assists residents, communities and businesses to access various funding streams for connectivity.
- Public Sector Hub Sites are upgraded to full fibre which in turn enables local properties to access better connectivity.
- There is commitment to install full ultrafast broadband to Cross Hands Business Park.
- A marketing brand is being created to assist in highlighting services to the public.
- Web-based support resources has a significant presence on CCC website.
- The 10 Towns community events have not been held due to Covid 19. However, there are 3 or 4 Rural Community Projects currently ongoing.
- Promote and Facilitate Voucher scheme uptake, the voucher value has increased recently. In Wales up to £7,000 is available per business and up to £1,500 per resident.
- Post Covid-19 proposed workstreams:
 - Digital awareness, skills and literacy – working with stakeholders and partner to address.
 - The Modern Workplace – more people working from home.
 - Innovation Network (IoT) – Internet of Things is a wireless network which facilitates connecting things that were not connecting before e.g. central heating, washing machine etc.
 - Internet of Things Use Cases – the potential is huge for the private, business and public sector.
 - 10 Towns Digital initiative – creating smart towns.

Barry Liles thanked Gareth J for the presentation and enquired about the £55m investment. Gareth J informed that the business case is currently being developed and it is hoped that funding will be drawn down by Christmas.

Huwel Manley enquired whether, since the changes in legislation, is it now easier for companies to erect new masts on private land with reduced compensation to landowners, and whether this has led to improvement in the connectivity situation. Gareth J commented that he believed it did have an impact as several new masts have been erected across the county over the last year. Ruth Mullen added that it is easier for new applications to be processed both from the operator’s point of view and planning. She was unsure however about the improvement in connectivity as operators would target bigger catchment of customers.

Barry L commented that the lockdown has highlighted the need for good connectivity and requested that information on access to the voucher scheme be circulated. He further requested that an update on the City Deal project and the Internet of Things be provided next year. Gareth J requested a point of contact for a digital officer from all organisations.

ACTION	
To arrange digital connectivity update next year	PSB Support Team
All to provide point of contact within their organisations for their digital officer.	All
To circulate link to the Carmarthenshire Broadband website page https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/business/superfast-broadband/	PSB Support Team

3. Natural Resources Wales Area Statement

Daron Herbert, People and Places Team Leader provided a presentation with the following points highlighted:

- The Area Statement (AS) is a requirement of the Environment Act.
- The South West Area Statement, covering the four counties from Neath Port Talbot to Pembrokeshire, is one of seven across Wales, six covering the land mass and one Marine Statement.
- Although the Statement Areas have boundaries, there is close working with neighbouring areas and the marine team.
- The State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) provides an evidence base for the AS and also informs Welsh Government's Natural Resources Policy (NRP) which in turn set out the priorities, challenges and opportunities associated with our natural resource management.
- The goal of these reports is to build greater ecosystem resilience.
- The three priority areas within the NRP;
 - Working with natural processes
 - Renewable energy and resource efficiency
 - Promoting a place-based approach.
- The AS is the application of the NRP in a local context and the legislations sets a framework where other plans and strategies have to have regard to the AS e.g. Local Development Plans, PSB Well-being Plans, National Parks and Public Bodies implementing their Section 6 duties.
- The AS was developed through a suite of data sets and workshops with experts from across NRW and Stakeholder Organisations.
- Four themes emerged from the Area Statement evidence base:
 - Reducing Health Inequality – there is a clear link between having access to high quality natural environments and physical and mental well-being.
 - Ensuring Sustainable Land Management
 - Reversing decline of Biodiversity
 - Tackling Climate Change
- There are a number of cross-cutting themes particularly mitigating and adapting to a changing climate:
 - Work with public sector and businesses – work is currently being done with Alan Netherwood looking at community resilience.
 - Increasing natural carbon sinks – sustainable land management, woodland creation and peat restoration.
 - Working with natural processes – mitigate some of the effects of climate change e.g. natural flood management.
- Reversing the decline of, and enhancing, biodiversity – currently in a dual emergency, natural and climate.
 - Improve the connectivity and condition of habitats and species – very few meadows remain which are important for birds and bees as pollinators.
 - Support others to safeguard biodiversity
- What does success look like? The Area Statement has been done with input from partners and identified priorities. There is a need to ensure the natural environment is taken care of as part of decisions going forward.
- There are key work areas around Covid-19 recovery e.g. Brechfa tourism opportunities, green spaces across the county, tree planting etc.

Julian Atkins commented that as the Brecon Beacons National Park area is covered by 4 Area Statements, it would be good to have a feel for the difference with the others Area Statements. It is challenging with each one having a slightly different focus. Huwel Manley responded that the South West AS has an urban area of Llanelli and the air quality issues are focused around the industrial areas of Port Talbot. There is a common theme with green infrastructure and green space, social prescribing and climate change mitigation. Each statement is specific for the place and not a blanket approach.

Ruth Mullen stated that carbon reduction, net zero carbon, encouraging agricultural businesses and supporting rural communities resonate with CCC and PSB. She enquired what timeframe the Area Statement sits in and whether it will get reviewed. Partners are now looking at recovery and tourism and how access to green spaces is developed. Huwel Manley responded that there are discussions on expansion of potential renewable energy around the county. In terms of tourism, Covid-19 recovery is a priority with all NRW visitor sites having reopened. Harvesting is currently being undertaken at Brechfa forest causing some issues, but there is funding available to improve access and he will make links with CCC.

Kevin Jones commented that the Fire and Rescue Service interactions are reflected within the area statement around land usage/burning/water run offs etc. Huwel M added that he works closely with Mydrian Harries on the Dawns Tân initiative and could see further opportunities for joint working on these challenges.

ACTION

To circulate questions from Daron Herbert for members to respond	PSB Support Team
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4. Minutes and Matters Arising:

22 January 2020

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

14 May 2020

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Action 7 – Gwyneth Ayers updated that Pembrokeshire have submitted a response to WG and that Carmarthenshire will provide its own response stating its disappointment on the removal of funding and seeking assurance that it will be returned next year.

5. Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan:

Draft Annual Report 2019-20

Kate Harrop provided an overview of the annual report and commented that some projects have been unable to be progressed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Prof. Jean White enquired on the collaboration with other PSBs and how projects are interlocking. Gwyneth Ayers responded that there is a developing relationship between the PSB's and RPB. She added that the Social and Green Solutions project is being progressed regionally and that there are cross overs with the RPB.

Project Updates

The Project updates were noted.

ACTION

To finalise plan and circulate to statutory bodies

PSB Support Team

7. Welsh Government Review of Strategic Partnerships

Gwyneth Ayers stated that the review was undertaken by Welsh Government, supported by WLGA and Welsh NHS Confederation. The report was presented to the All Wales Partnership Council on 11 June and sets out some recommendations and an overview of the findings so far. It was identified that each Partnership has merit but there is a need for individual partnerships to be closer aligned. The report has identified Strategic Partnerships as PSB, RPB and City Deal; with Strategic Policy Partnerships as Community Safety, Adult Safeguarding, Children Safeguarding, Skills Partnership, Area Planning Board, VAWDASV etc.

There is a need to strengthen the link and relationship between the different tiers of partnerships and improve understanding and communication between them. The report recognised that it has not considered the Local Government Bill due to be introduced next year. This bill will introduce corporate joint committees which will drive another potential tier of partnership e.g. economic development, transport, planning, education improvement etc.

There is no easy fix in reducing the number of partnership meetings, however there is a need to identify areas of duplication in particular between PSB, RPB and City Deal; and to improve communication links with the policy partnerships when discussing matters relevant to the PSB.

There is a series of recommendations on page 22 and there is a need to ensure all partnerships play an active role to ensure more alignment.

Martyn Palfreman commented that the report is timely and there is a definite push to build on current collaboration. The RPB are currently looking at next steps and this will be considered.

ACTION

Consider links between other policy and strategic partnerships identified and PSB to ensure greater alignment and reduce duplication of effort.

PSB Support Team

6. Future Arrangements for Well-being Plan

Gwyneth Ayers shared a document showing the current well-being objectives, the projects that each delivery group have focused on, identifying any collaboration and the COVID-19 recovery focus identified at the last meeting. It was requested that a more detailed discussion be held at the next meeting in terms of proposed focus areas going forward. Barry Liles added that there is a need to take stock of the impact COVID-19 has had on the previously identified objectives.

Huwel Manley commented that there are opportunities to link COVID-19 recovery focus with the work of the sub-groups. It is important that whilst COVID-19 recovery is a key focus, it is not the sole objective.

Martyn Palfreman welcomed the connections identified with the RPB. Particularly the volunteering agenda and technology enabled care. The RPB are at the point of identifying the next steps and it would be a great opportunity to align rather than duplicate or go separate ways.

Menna Davies stated that COVID has supported the aim of the Strong Connections Group in establishing more community hubs, both official and unofficial. Volunteers are supporting the vulnerable and those shielding etc. and there is a need to capture this and sustain the activity going forward. In terms of Strong Connections and Prosperous People and Places, digital connectivity vouchers will be a lifeline particularly for small employers.

Gwyneth Ayers commented that the Prosperous People and Places have been looking at education and employment. Organisational workforce planning was discussed at the last meeting and the development needs for the future in terms of agile working. Barry Liles responded that it would be good to have an update from Jane Lewis at a future meeting as the focus may take a different path following COVID-19. Sarah Jennings added that HDUHB are keen to work with Jane on the Swansea Bay Regional Skills work and how it links with this supporting the health and care sector.

Gwyneth Ayers added that the group was also looking at local procurement which will be taken forward through the Foundational Economy Challenge Fund project. The advertisement for a Project Officer is currently out and are in the process of confirming work with CLES who worked predominately with Preston. The Preston Model is cited as best practice. The work will not only focus on the food side but a progressive procurement approach across the partners involved in the project (Council, Health Board, Coleg Sir Gâr and University) due to spend on food. The next element would be the wider work on progressive procurement that WG initiated, this will be on a regional basis with Powys, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire. Barry Liles recently received a letter from Lee Waters enquiring whether we would be ready to take this work forward, it has been confirmed this will be done once back up and running and will involve all PSB partners.

ACTION	
To liaise with RPB on areas of cross over	PSB Support Team
To arrange update from Jane Lewis on RLSP	PSB Support Team
To circulate the table summarising well-being plan and post-COVID-19 priorities, and all to provide feedback by end of August	All
To consider future priorities at next meeting in September	PSB Support Team

8. Attached for information

The Future Generations Report 2020

Gwyneth Ayers informed that the Future Generations Report was published at the start of May and that the Future Generations Commissioner was expected, through the Well-being Act, to publish findings of the report 12 months ahead of the senedd elections. Despite being in lockdown they went ahead and published in order to fulfil their statutory duties. It is a lengthy report and includes 295 recommendations. Julian Atkins advised that Powys PSB have produced a summary of recommendations and that he would seek approval to share it.

It was agreed that a workshop be held in September/October to discuss the Report.

ACTION

To seek approval from Powys to circulate summary of Future Generations Report 2020	Julian Atkins
To arrange a workshop for September/October to discuss Future Generations Report 2020	PSB Support Team

9. Any Other BusinessTown Centre report

Gwyneth Ayers stated that the County Council are looking at economic recovery as part of COVID-19 response with one key area being town centre including rural towns across the county. Prior to lockdown all partners were approached to identify any accommodation/office needs in the towns and it would be good to re-visit this work and get it moving again. How do we generate more footfall in the towns, is there an opportunity to create public sector hubs where any public sector employee could use?

Letter from Lee Waters

Gwyneth Ayers commented that this was mentioned in procurement update and are looking to continue with the work as soon as possible.

GamCare

Marie Mitchel informed that CAVS have been working with GamCare over last few weeks and that under the current crisis gambling has increased. GamCare want to raise awareness of the methods online gambling/bingo sites use where people are encouraged to continue playing. GamCare offer training for organisations for staff to identify signs and highlight free treatment for gambling addictions.

Llanelli Rural Council

Mark Galbraith stated that in response to the Well-being of Future Generations Act, Llanelli Rural Council commissioned a whole place plan with a 15-year span and appointed a Community Development Officer. Some of the current projects include:

- Setting up a community adoption scheme in Swiss Valley reservoir to look at promoting biodiversity, this will include stocking the reservoir with fish to encourage angling and opening as a tourist destination for kayaking.
- Safe routes in the community
- Undertaking a feasibility study for Llwynhendy library to asset transfer and make into a community hub.
- Consideration is given to the well-being act and sustainable infrastructure when looking at large residential developments. It is felt that this could be met via establishment of a hub offering outreach facilities such as post office, dental practice, healthcare etc. and would welcome e.g. Section 106 support for this.
- A number of community asset transfers are being considered.
- Street buddies initiative it a volunteers group promoted as community champions and can volunteer in any community project. They are supported through the spice time credit initiative.
- Setting up new children play areas, support groups applying for grants, setting up new groups etc.
- Social media presence has grown considerably with 700 followers on Twitter.

- There are several food banks in the area and some seem to compete against each other, there is a need for resources to be shared.

Huwel Manley requested that Mark contact him in relation to the kayaking interest and added that he believes Phil Stone is the officer for the Wales Canoe Group. Kevin Jones stated that the Fire and Rescue water safety team could assist with awareness for visitors etc. as the Swiss Valley project develops.

Barry Liles commented that the town and community councils do a lot of work and highlighted the need to capture the information more effectively.

Sarah Jennings

Barry Liles announced that this would be the last meeting for Sarah Jennings who has been a long-standing member of the PSB and previously the LSB. This would be a huge loss to the Board and he thanked her for her contribution over the years and wished her luck in her new role.

Mileage

All members were asked to provide details of the mileage they would have travelled to a meeting held at County Hall, Carmarthen. This would be a useful measure going forward in terms of environmental and cost implications.

ACTION	
To re-visit PSB accommodation/office needs in towns	PSB Support Team
To raise awareness of GamCare within their organisation – Marie Mitchell to provide relevant information	All
To consider how to present Town & Community Council annual report to PSB	PSB Support Team
To provide details of mileage they would have travelled to attend a physical meeting at County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP	All