

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Dear Swansea Public Services Board members and support team,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide feedback on your draft Assessment of Local Well-being sent to the office in January 2017.

The first thing I want to do is to make it clear that I fully appreciate the challenges that you have faced in the development of the assessment this time around, and I congratulate your team on their hard work and efforts.

My primary focus in providing this feedback is to help you consider how well your work so far will help you to set your collective objectives and undertake well-being planning. For me Public Services Boards are one of the biggest opportunities for the public sector in Wales to change the way we do things in Wales and to collaboratively make decisions and deliver services that will benefit future generations.

Your assessment is a key part of this, and whilst I appreciate that it may not be a full picture by the time you publish it, it is important that it sets out a clear and informed picture of the well-being of Swansea and your communities, that is relevant now and into the future. **Your assessment should enable you to clearly identify key challenges for your area and communities, and to develop collective objectives that address these challenges.**

I attach a document that gives you detailed feedback on your draft assessment, and what you should think about building on both in the short term as you move towards well-being planning and in terms of assessing well-being in the future.

During 2017-18 one of your key tasks will be to develop your collective well-being objectives as part of your Well-being Plan. The legislation requires you to seek my advice on how to take steps to meet your objectives in accordance with the sustainable development principle (five ways of working).

Below I set out some of the things I will be looking for as my office continues to work with you. In my view those PSBs who have showed they are already taking account of the five ways of working will be well placed to develop objectives and Well-being Plans, which will have benefits for all organisations involved in terms of maximising their collective contribution to the goals and addressing inter-generational challenges.

The approach that you've taken to identifying six themes and 19 'well-being drivers' is interesting and your approach to 'scoring' the drivers will provide useful points for discussion as well as enabling a focus on your aspirations and what progress could look like. I think that you have the opportunity to explore further the **integration** between the themes, drivers and the seven national well-being goals. For the PSB to understand how it

can **maximise its contribution**, the relationship between strategic objectives under these six themes and the national goals will need to be understood and communicated.

I was pleased to see that you have made a good start with your approach to **involving people and communities** in the development of your assessment, and your approach of scoring drivers provides you with a strong basis for further meaningful engagement. I would encourage you to make sure that you continue to provide opportunities for a broad range of stakeholders and citizens to get involved in influencing the development of your objectives, and be able to demonstrate that their input has an effect on what you do.

The detailed feedback highlights that some of your sections on 'Future Prospects' have been written extremely well, particularly your section on a 'Decent Standard of Living'. As you develop the assessment and move towards well-being planning I would like to see you build on this work to give greater attention to the potential impact of long term trends on Swansea under all of your themes and drivers. This should include greater insight into key issues for the **long term** well-being of Swansea, in particular through considering what challenges they present, and which specific localities, communities and people are likely to be most affected or are most vulnerable.

A key element of the legislation is the focus on **preventing problems** from occurring rather than just responding to them and I see this as a key priority for your well-being planning. Whilst you mention prevention in the context of early year's intervention and environment, your assessment would benefit from a description of how the preventative agenda is critical to well-being planning and public service delivery. This is an area where I would encourage you to give detailed consideration to what the data and evidence is telling you, in order to make sense of key challenges you have identified.

And **collaboration** is key to all of this – you now have the opportunity to take your partnership working to a new level, collaborating with resources and finding new ways to deal with old problems. Your assessment should be helping you to identify the most fruitful opportunities to do this.

Your support team have worked hard to develop this assessment and the people who support your well-being planning will need your full buy-in and support. Key features of this are likely to be the leadership you show and your willingness to give people space and permission to explore new ways of addressing old problems. This cultural change is what the Well-being of Future Generations Act is all about.

In anticipation of the requirement for me to provide advice on how you should take steps to meet your collective objectives I would like to see further detail of how you will use your assessment as you move towards well-being planning. I would appreciate you letting my office know how you have responded to our feedback. With this in mind it will also be important for you to provide my feedback to the scrutiny committee that has the lead for

scrutinising the work of the PSB. The need for a more constructive approach to scrutiny has been identified as an important part of maximising collective action at the local level.

I hope that our feedback is clear and useful at this stage. However, I must reiterate that I don't see the development of your assessment as a one-off event. Going forward I will be providing opportunities for PSBs to share learning and best practice which I hope you will be involved in, in order to provide the best platform for you to fulfil your ongoing obligations under the Act.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sophie Howe', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sophie Howe,  
Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

## Feedback from the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner on

### SWANSEA Public Services Board Draft Assessment of Local Well-being 2017: *The evidence base for Swansea's Well-being Plan.*

#### 1. Introduction

The following report provides feedback to Swansea Public Services Board from the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner on the consultation draft of Swansea's Assessment of Local Well-being which was published in January 2017. This feedback is based on our project team<sup>1</sup> reviewing the following key documents and discussions:

- *Swansea Public Services Board Assessment of Local Well-being 2017: The evidence base for Swansea's Well-being Plan. Consultation Draft -Jan 17*
- *Swansea's Assessment of Local Well-being 2017 [Draft] Annex 1: A Demographic Profile of Swansea*
- *Swansea's Assessment of Local Well-being 2017 [Draft] Annex 2: Community Areas in Swansea by Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)*
- *Swansea's Assessment of Local Well-being 2017 [Draft] Annex 3: Background to the Assessment*
- a phone discussion between the project team and members of the PSB team on 14<sup>th</sup> February

It is intended that his feedback should be used to inform both the publication of the assessment in spring 2017 where possible and recognising the timescales that exist, but it is more important that it informs ongoing processes of developing your assessment and well-being planning.

The assessment has been reviewed by the project team using a set of criteria, developed specifically to focus on aspects of assessment production, methodology and analysis and the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act. These criteria enable us to review the wide range of approaches to local assessment of well-being that have been used across Wales. This has also enabled us to provide bespoke feedback to PSBs, highlighting strengths and potential areas for improvement. This consistent approach will also enable the Commissioner to identify key issues and highlight opportunities for shared learning, at a Wales-wide level, for the wide range of public sector and other bodies involved in well-being planning.

While we understand from the phone conversation with the PSB team that the Well-being Assessment is an ongoing process, and that further work is currently being undertaken, it is

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Alan Netherwood, Netherwood Sustainable Futures, Dr. Andrew Flynn, Cardiff University and Dr. Mark Lang, Mark Lang Consulting

important that the following comments are noted and acted upon as the well-being assessment is developed, adapted and built upon to inform well-being planning across the PSB.

## 2. National well-being goals

One of the issues we have considered is how effectively the seven national well-being goals have been reflected in the assessment as the WFG Act requires PSBs to demonstrate how they plan to maximise their contribution to the goals. It is important that there is a clear link between the data in assessments, its interpretation and our understanding of all aspects of well-being in our communities.

We understand that PSBs will develop different ways of reflecting well-being; in Swansea's case across six themes <sup>2</sup>and 19 well-being 'drivers'. The rationale for utilising this framework is clear and Annexe 3 is particularly helpful in explaining this. It was also clear from the phone conversation that this approach has evolved from previous partnership work.

This will provide a useful framework to develop an understanding of causal relationships and preventative action as your evidence base is developed. We understand the intention of scoring and look forward to hearing how this approach engages partners and communities. There is scope for you to provide more explanation about how the six themes were chosen and how they link with and contribute to the seven national well-being goals. Why are these six themes and 19 drivers particularly important to Swansea and not other well-being issues?

For the PSB to understand how it can *maximise* its contribution, the relationship between strategic objectives under these six themes and the national goals will need to be understood. While the seven national goals are referred to in the introduction, there is no reference to them under the six themes or within the evidence or analysis within the 19 well-being drivers. The 'About *this outcome*' section provides an opportunity for authors to develop this link. This could be done with a simple table explaining the contribution to each of the national well-being goals.

At present the 'Summaries' and 'About *this outcome*' sections in the assessment often assume an implicit understanding of how the issue will impact on well-being. This could be made more explicit and the national well-being goals might provide a useful tool to do this, and to identify the potential contribution of the PSB to multiple goals through integrated activity.

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<sup>2</sup> Children have a good start in life; People learn successfully; Young people and adults have good jobs People have a decent standard of living ; People are healthy, safe and independent; People have good places to live, work and visit.

We would expect to see a stronger explanation of this relationship in future iterations of the assessment and throughout the well-being planning process in Swansea.

### 3. Data content – area and plac

The WFG Act requires well-being assessments to focus on the area and 'place' and reflect the variety of communities across your area. We have considered the extent to which the data content of your assessment does this.

There is good use of Swansea wide, regional and comparative data to inform your assessment which gives us a broad understanding of the types of challenges to well-being. However in places the data would benefit from more interpretation to understand the *significance* of the issue for Swansea as a whole. Improving our understanding of well-being through more effective interpretation and communication of the significance of challenges to well-being are two themes which we will refer to later in this feedback document.

The frame that you have developed to record information under each of the themes and drivers is commendable and provides some basic, but well thought through 'request' of contributors under each sub-heading<sup>3</sup>. This includes a section requiring authors to analyse '*Differences within Swansea*'. There are good examples where LSOA and MSOA data has informed the narrative, including the section '*People have decent standard of living*' and outcome F2 on environment and infrastructure.

However, generally, we believe that the analysis could be improved by a greater focus on individual communities across the Swansea area. This could include greater understanding of well-being in different areas and places, differences within areas or between areas, inequalities and particularly acute local issues. We believe that a well-being assessment should provide a more localised (and less homogenous) understanding of well-being, and will be seeking evidence of this as well-being planning progresses.

It was useful to understand from our phone conversation that constraints of time placed on PSBs to produce the assessment influenced the extent to which local data could be included, and that there was an intention to build on this work to include community level data in future across Bay West; Bay East; City; Cwm Tawe; Penderi and Llwychwyr. On this basis, Annex 1 and Annex 2 need to be further developed.

The assessment could also be strengthened by including data on critical energy, water, transport and other critical infrastructure. This should include an interpretation of key challenges and trade-offs (see comments on this in point 7 below). This type of information is of key relevance to the PSB, service delivery and future community well-being.

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<sup>3</sup> Swansea's strengths: Changes over time; Comparisons with other places; Differences within Swansea; Perceptions and perspectives; Future prospects; What would improvement look like: about the evidence:

#### **4. Data content – public service needs**

We think it is important that you have a clear picture of the different needs of people and communities now and in the future, and that the implications of these needs are understood. We have considered the extent to which the data content of the assessment focuses on public service needs, within communities and for particular groups of individuals.

A priority for my office is encouraging public bodies and PSBs to make sure that they are firstly involving people and communities in ways that give them greater insights into people's lived experiences of public bodies, and secondly acting upon these insights when they make decisions and deliver services.

It is positive to see many of the sections under each of the 19 drivers provide quantitative and qualitative information on public services particularly under the sections '*perceptions and perspective*', '*future prospects*' and '*changes over time*'. This is a useful resource and should be collated and analysed by the PSB – what does this information tell us about whether services are adequate; whether there is a major gap in public services to address the 'driver'; the scale of the public service challenge from the 'driver'; and the potential role of the PSB in developing collective action to address the issue?

You could build on this to give more consideration to interpretation of the data to understand what the challenge is for public services. This point is picked up in more detail under point 6. The assessment could be strengthened with an analysis of key messages to the PSB and the public sector more generally about the 'step change' which is likely to be required to address these 19 drivers.

It is understood that the commissioned consultation work with Neath and Port Talbot Council and Bridgend Council will also provide insight into public service needs, especially given that this work considers the data from the Population Needs Assessment

#### **5. Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis**

We recognise the challenge of balancing data, insights and evidence to produce a rounded understanding of well-being of communities and individuals of the short, medium and long term. One of our main considerations has been the extent to which both quantitative and qualitative analysis and methods in assessments provide a broad picture of environmental, economic, cultural and social well-being, together with initial commentary on the implications of this 'picture' for communities. i.e. what really matters?

As suggested above, we believe that the framework and templates developed for the assessment are excellent and are clearly helping you to collate and begin to interpret a large volume of material. They also provide a useful tool for further consultation.

In general there is good use of quantitative data to describe the current situation. However, in many places the accompanying narrative would benefit from further interpretation to understand the *significance* of the data (this particularly applies to health and education based drivers). This would help us to understand the situation more clearly. There is also a great deal of variability in the 'Summary' boxes in defining the implications of the picture for communities. This needs to be strengthened to get a sense of scale, significance and implications for well-being.

In this respect, there is much better use of qualitative data and some authors have provided excellent intuitive analysis to help to describe the significance of the current situation (this particularly applies to sections on poverty and culture. This type of approach should be encouraged across the 19 drivers. The section '*People have a decent standard of living*'. 'is notable for its excellent balance of qualitative, quantitative data, interpretation and narrative and should be used a benchmark for other sections.

The comments below are based on how effectively the 'templates' that have been developed communicate and assess well-being. There is obviously clear potential in these templates if they are utilised well and information is analysed across the 19 drivers.

*Swansea's strengths* – this provides a comprehensive list of existing assets and services and public sector interventions. It would be helpful to have a better understanding of the relative impact of these activities to address the 'driver'. What do we need to do more of?

*Changes over time* – these sections are variable at getting the message across of how the 'issue' is impacting on well-being - what is the impact of the change or trend and what are its implications for public services?

*Comparisons* – the assessment could be clearer about what the comparison tells us in many of the drivers- is it significant if Swansea differs by 0.1% from Carmarthenshire or Bridgend? Does it highlight inequalities – or issues for public services?

*Differences within Swansea* – this has the potential to develop along with Annex 1 and 2 to build up an excellent resource (see comments above in point 3) but there is wide variability in how this is filled out. Can qualitative data be used more to describe differences within Swansea if quantitative data is unavailable?

*Perceptions and Perspectives* – it is unclear in many cases, whose perspectives and perceptions these are, so it would be helpful if this could be made clearer. This provides a good basis to include information from consultation activity.



*Future prospects* - many of these sections have been completed on the basis of what is likely to happen in the next couple of years in terms of planned interventions, whilst others are more aspirational. The PSB should utilise this information and summarise it to inform the shift that is required to address the 'driver' as well as the role of the PSB. Few focus on long term 10+years – this should be encouraged to begin to understand long term trends and their potential impacts. (see comments on Foresight and Future Trends in point 10)

*What would improvement look like?* – This already provides an excellent resource to understand the nature of change required and the implications for public services. Two questions which could focus the use of this material are how the 'improvement' could be achieved, and 'what is the role of the PSB in this?'

*About the evidence* – these sections are also variable, but provide another good resource for the PSB to understand data gaps and potential to address them. (See further comments on this in point 12 below).

The following comments focus on the thematic sections of the assessment and the extent to which these assess well-being across the 19 drivers:

*Outcome A: Children have a good start in life* – much of this information is generic and impacts and the significance across Swansea could be more clearly articulated. Some of the language reflects 'performance management' and needs to be clearer about the significance of impacts e.g. "further improvement is needed", "there are concerns" - what are nature of concerns and the scale of improvements needed?

*Outcome B: People learn successfully* – this is very focused on statistics of educational attainment. There seems to be a narrow focus on this section with limited mention of the Universities or Colleges in Swansea and no mention of continuing education. What is the rationale behind these drivers being chosen to measure this outcome?

*Outcome C: Young people and adults have good jobs* - this section is well evidenced but could provide a greater insight into significance of different aspects of Swansea's economy – what is the role of the public sector? What is the role of the City region deal? There is limited understanding of the distribution of jobs across Swansea and particular role of retail in specific communities or Swansea's role as sub regional hub. There is a far more strategic story about well-being here which is missed from a narrow 'frame' around the available statistics.

*Outcome D: People have a decent standard of living*

*Outcome E: People are healthy, safe and independent*

As mentioned previously, these sections are particularly well developed. The authors clearly have the confidence to interpret the data and are good at drawing out key the challenges over the short, medium and long term, and improvement and implications for public services. All sections should aspire to this approach.

*Outcome F: People have good places to live, work and visit.* - the cultural section on this is strong and well written. Other sections need more development beyond a list of bullet points e.g. what is about having two Universities which provides strength? What is the situation on housing affordability? What biodiversity is in decline and under threat?

## 6. Key challenges

It is important that well-being assessments, in assessing the state of well-being, focus on key challenges to well-being over the short, medium and long term, as well as the positive attributes and assets in the area. This includes the trade-offs between different well-being goals, tensions, assets and deficits within the area.

We understand that the assessment is intended as a stimulus to develop a conversation about challenges in Swansea and how to address them. However, as stated previously, the assessment could be enhanced throughout with further interpretation of their significance for Swansea and its communities—*how* these issues will impact on well-being. We need to have a clearer understanding of which communities and people have resilience or are vulnerable to current and future trends. This will help the PSB to understand what preventative approaches can be developed and should be a focus of future work on the assessment.

These challenges could be more clearly defined in the 'summary' on each driver. The *future forecast* section also provides a great opportunity to communicate challenges over the medium and long term. Authors and contributors should be encouraged to develop this approach.

There is very rich data in the document that represents insightful analysis and this should feature more strongly in a broad summary within the main document. There are clearly some core issues which are described *within* the narrative that should provide a stronger backdrop to all of the drivers: children living in poverty; limited resources for social care; under-provision of housing; welfare reform; climate impacts; austerity; natural resource depletion. This is an area where existing data and information might help to provide a broad strategic context for the 19 drivers.

## **7. Engagement, involvement and collaboration**

The WFG Act clearly indicates that collaboration and involvement are two of the five ways of working which PSBs need to consistently apply to their work. As a consequence, we have been particularly interested in the level and method of engagement, involvement and collaboration across the partnership in producing the assessment, including engagement with communities, public, third sector and private sector organisations.

The phone discussion helped us to understand the work underway in collaboration with Bridgend Council and Neath Port Talbot Council to explore and consult on both the well-being and population needs assessments. We look forward to seeing reports on this activity. The data as it is presented is complex and we will be interested how the collaborative activity and future engagement and consultation presents the information to the general public and communities as well-being planning progresses.

Clearly because of this we have only a partial picture of the engagement and consultation activity which has been used to inform the assessment. We can see the effort that has been put into the online survey and understand the levels of collaboration across the partnership to develop the assessment.

It is also good to hear how much this assessment has acted as a catalyst to develop collaborative working across the PSB. The final assessment should explain the benefits of this collaboration, the nature of their contribution, and where joint work could be improved. This collaboration is positive and should be built on as you move forward into well-being planning.

## **8. Integration**

One of the key aims of the WFG Act is to develop integration at all levels across the public sector. We believe it is important to understand the inter-relationship between environmental, social, economic and cultural well-being. As a result we have been keen to consider the level of integration between traditional policy and organisational silos in producing the Assessment. It is important that the data listed in the assessment is explored across traditional policy and organisational silos, to interpret what this means for well-being in the area.

There is scope for greater consideration of data from each section (and within each section) alongside that of the others, and consideration of the inter-relationships between data. This is an area for you to give further consideration as you finalise your assessment for publication, and as you move toward well-being planning. This should include greater integration and more exploration of the relationship of policy/challenges between of the 19 drivers – for example housing and climate change have multiple impacts across a number of drivers – how will the assessment and well-being planning address issues which have this

cross cutting nature? As mentioned in point 2 the well-being goals might provide a useful frame to explore integration across all of the assessment's primary and secondary drivers.

We understand that work is already underway and planned to further investigate the findings of the assessment with partners. These inter-relationships should form a part of this activity. Integration across well-being themes should be an important issue for the PSB to consider as it moves towards well-being planning.

## 9. Foresight and future trends

One of the key challenges from the legislation is to consider the short, medium *and long term* well-being throughout the assessment and Plan process. We are interested in the level of foresight and use of future trends analysis in producing the assessment and recognition of the well-being of future generations.

Generally, there needs to be greater attention given to the potential impact of long term trends on Swansea under the 19 drivers and this is something we would expect to see improve as the assessment and Plan is developed. i.e. how vulnerable/resilient is Swansea's energy, water, transport and other infrastructure able to support the economy and provide the foundations for well-being across the 19 drivers?

As explained in point 5, there are variable approaches across 19 drivers to use the 'Future Prospects section' to consider long term well-being. This has been done extremely well in some sections - particularly in the 'Decent Standard of Living' Section and could be developed further in others such as 'Decent Start in life' and 'People Learn Successfully'.

We understand from the phone conversation that there is an opportunity to include more analysis of the potential impact of future trends on well-being and develop horizon scanning. We would encourage you to pursue this within the PSB as you work on developing the assessment and well-being planning.

A simple approach could be adopted to address this issue. Summarising the short, medium and long term challenges for each section, identifying where there are potential significant implications for the area, and gaps in your understanding of long term trends might help the PSB to prioritise critical challenges where collective action is needed.

The Welsh Government will be producing their Future Trends Report in May 2017. The current plan is to include 6 key themes: Population, Economy, Natural Resources & Climate Change, Health, Land Use & Infrastructure & Societal Change. As it develops your assessment will need to take account of data included in this, but should aim to provide a clearer emphasis on long term challenges to well-being in the initial assessment published in the coming months.

## 10. Cross boundary issues

Integration and collaboration are central to public bodies applying the sustainable development principle to their activities. One of our aims has been to review the extent to which the assessment has considered cross boundary issues for regional and national action.

We believe that a more detailed understanding and analysis of key regional and cross border issues which affect Swansea would be beneficial, to inform the well-being plan process. There is only limited reference to the region across the 19 drivers and where it is mentioned, there is little interpretation.

The assessment would benefit from some further interpretation of how the Swansea Bay City Region Project might impact on all aspects of community well-being across Swansea. Even if the specific impacts are uncertain at present, it will clearly have an influence on cohesion, equality, resilience and so on. The project's potential influence should be included for all sections of the assessment, beyond the 'Economic drivers, as it is likely to have multiple impacts across different parts of Swansea. Greater insight could also be provided on the significance of commuting patterns to well-being in Swansea, critical issues for transport infrastructure and the nature of inter-relationships with neighbouring authorities and other regional partners. It will also be important for PSBs to consider the conclusions of neighbouring local assessments of well-being as plan production develops.

This regional focus is something we would expect to feature in future iterations of the assessment to inform well-being planning in Swansea, perhaps forming part of the broader context for the drivers as suggested discussed in point 6. It was good to hear in the phone conversation that regional issues are already being considered by the PSB team.

## 11. Data quality and data gaps

The WFG Act intends that well-being planning will be a continuous process where the evidence base will be gradually improved over time, to enable public bodies and others to understand and plan for well-being in their communities. We are keen to understand the approach of PSBs to data quality and data gaps during the assessment and data issues moving forward.

It is really positive to see the '*About the evidence*' sections under each of 19 drivers, where some authors have readily identified data gaps, and others should be encouraged to do so. This is a really useful resource and could be collated and summarised to provide a synthesis of data gaps from different aspects of the work to understand what might be needed in the short term, medium and long term – i.e. what is missing that matters now to inform Plan development, what would be good to build over the medium term and what longer term data issues are.

This would enable the PSB to build on existing work and plan for improving data quality during the next year and beyond, helping PSB partners to build in data research and management into their business and corporate planning. It would also provide an indication to Welsh Government, the Office and Data Unit Wales on PSB needs.

## 12. Use of the sustainable development principle

The statutory guidance places a responsibility on PSBs to *maximise* their contribution to the well-being goals by utilising the sustainable development principle in the way that they operate. We have been keen to understand how the sustainable development principle and five ways of working have been utilised during well-being assessments.

It is really good to see the approach adopted in the introduction, where there has been clear consideration of how to apply the sustainable development principle and five ways of working to the assessment itself. This could be further developed in the final assessment to communicate how this has changed this approach from previous 'traditional' methods of developing evidence and consulting on well-being. What has been the added value of utilising the five ways of working? This would help the PSB organisations to begin to understand the value of its use as the *modus operandi* of the partnership.

Clearly there are activities which illustrate the sustainable development principle and are implicit in the approach taken and these activities show an understanding of the WFG Act and its intentions:

*Long term* – through the Future Forecast section (see comments in point 9)

*Involvement* – through the consultation work undertaken and currently underway (see point 7)

*Collaboration* – through work with statutory partners, and others (see point 7)

*Integration* – could be further explored by the PSB (see points 2 and 8)

While *Prevention* is mentioned in the context of early year's intervention and environment, the Assessment would benefit from a description of how the preventative agenda is critical to well-being planning and public service delivery.

## 13. Looking forward to plan production

A critical issue for our review of this assessment was whether the documentation was clear about how the work would be carried forward to develop local objectives and plan production.

This is an area where the assessment could be strengthened. While there is an indication from the Chair's introduction about what the assessment is for, we believe the documents

need to be more explicit about: the next steps; how individuals and organisations can remain involved; the timetable for engagement and input; and what the Plan is intending to do.

Also at present, the Plan is being framed as one which has a 'small number of objectives' while at the same time suggesting this is an open process, with a broad number of primary and secondary drivers. If objectives are to be limited, the rationale for this approach should be communicated by the PSB. Importantly, this explanation needs to communicate more effectively how the material collected in the assessment is going to be used to formulate objectives for the PSB.

#### **14. Overview**

The documentary analysis above has identified a number of areas where we believe the assessment could be strengthened, both in the short term, before its publication and over the medium term as the response analysis develops and the Plan is produced. In addition to this we organised a phone call to discuss the assessment with members of the PSB team who had been involved in the process. The aim of the phone call was to provide us with an opportunity to clarify/explore particular issues that our initial review has highlighted and to enable the PSB to flag up issues which are part of the broader context of assessment production.

A number of clear, recurring broad themes have emerged from our review and the conversation. It is clear that this has been a huge undertaking over a relatively short period of time, and that partners have put a great deal of effort into producing the draft assessment. We are impressed by the structure that has been put in place to gather information across the partnership and the start that has been made in developing this resource.

We believe the following issues need to be tackled to improve the assessment;

*strategic context* – a broader description of well-being challenges for Swansea over the short, medium and long term to provide the context for the six themes and 19 drivers

*area and place* – to complement the 19 drivers, a greater reflection of well-being within particular areas of Swansea, to better highlight the key issues for well-being in different localities and the assets and inequalities across the area

*significance of the data* – more explanation on the significance of the data and key challenges to well-being across all 19 drivers.

*challenges* – provide a clearer analysis of short, medium and long term challenges (and opportunities) to well-being

*regional context* – a greater understanding of Swansea's inter-relationships with neighbouring authorities (and PSBs) and the Swansea Bay City region project.

*future trends* – greater attention given to the potential impact of long term trends on well-being in Swansea as a whole and its communities

*moving forward* – provide a clearer description of how the assessment data is intended to be used, how data gaps are to be managed and how well-being planning will progress

It is recognised that some of these may be addressed in the PSBs proposed activities between now and the final publication of the assessment.

We hope that the issues raised above will inform this collaborative work so that these elements are reflected more strongly by the PSB in the final Assessment of Local Well-being and throughout the well-being planning process.