

Bridgend and Cwm Taf Public Services Boards Well-being Assessment Consultation

Consultation report

This document is also available in Welsh

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1. Overview

A public consultation to understand what matters most, in terms of well-being, for people and communities in Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr was undertaken by Bridgend and Cwm Taf PSBs over a six-week period from **14 February to 24 March 2022**.

The consultation received a total of **255** interactions from survey completions. This paper details the analysis associated with the consultation.

In addition, three focus groups were held in Bedlinog, Merthyr Tydfil and Pentre, engaging with 42 people. The feedback from these focus groups is included in section 8 of this report.

Formal responses were received from Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Natural Resources Wales, Office of the Future Generations Commissioner and Welsh Government. These responses are attached as appendices

2. Introduction

The public survey was available to complete online through a link on the consultation page of Bridgend council's website. Paper copies of the consultation were also made available which could be sent directly to residents upon request. Surveys were available in standard and large print formats. Both were available in Welsh and English.

In total, there were six questions that required a reply from respondents. Respondents could choose to answer all or some of the questions. All survey responses offered the option of anonymity. The council's standard set of equalities monitoring questions were also included with the survey in line with recommended good practice for all public-facing surveys carried out by the council.

Comments regarding the consultation were also invited via social media, letter, email and phone call.

3. Marketing and engagement methods

3.1 Marketing

This section details the methods used to raise the profile of the consultation and encourage participation.

The survey was promoted by Bridgend and Cwm Taf PSBs through

- PSB partner websites and social media accounts
- PSB networks and sub boards
- Neighbourhood networks and forums in each area
- County Voluntary Councils for Bridgend, Merthyr and RCT
- Community Cohesion and Equalities Forums
- Statutory consultees under the Well-being of Future Generations Act
- Local authority members
- PSB Scrutiny Committees
- Direct email to 105 people previously engaged who asked to be involved further.

3.1.1 Social media

The council runs the following social media accounts: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.

The public consultation on the Public Services Board Well-being Assessment was posted bilingually to the council's corporate Twitter channels throughout the consultation period to raise awareness of the consultation and to encourage citizens to share their views on the proposals.

The council currently has **14,321** followers on its English Twitter account and **324** on its Welsh Twitter account. While content is most likely to be seen by these users, it is also displayed to users who are not connected to the accounts.

During the consultation period, the local authority posted **13 times** on Twitter in both English and Welsh. The consultation was also posted on corporate Facebook pages in both English and Welsh.

Tweets	E=13/W=13
Impressions	8146
Engagements	86
Likes	5
Shares/retweets	12
Link clicks	32
Comments	2

Facebook posts	1 eng 1 cym
Reach	3349
Impressions	3522
Engagements	35
Likes	2
Shares	7
Link shares	10

3.1.2 govDelivery

govDelivery is a digital communications tool that was implemented by the local authority in June 2020 to send messages directly to residents' email inboxes in the language of their choice.

There are currently **36,096** English language subscribers and **226** Welsh language subscribers from Bridgend County Borough. Details of the public consultation on the Public Services Board Well-being assessment was included in a Gov Delivery bulletin on **3rd, 10th and 17th March**.

The English bulletin received a total of **141 link clicks**, the Welsh bulletin received **4 link clicks**.

4. Response rate

In total, there were **255 survey completions**. A further **42** individuals attended focus group sessions. The focus group sessions were held in community hubs in **Bedlinog (CF46)**, **Pentre (CF41)** and **Merthyr (CF47)**.

5. How effective was the consultation?

The data collection methods, which include the online survey, a paper survey and focus group sessions were developed using plain English to maximise understanding. These response methods were designed to give a consistency to the survey across multiple platforms.

6. Question and analysis - consultation survey

Section seven of the report looks at the questions asked in the consultation survey – with **255** respondents in total.

6.1 Language to complete the survey.

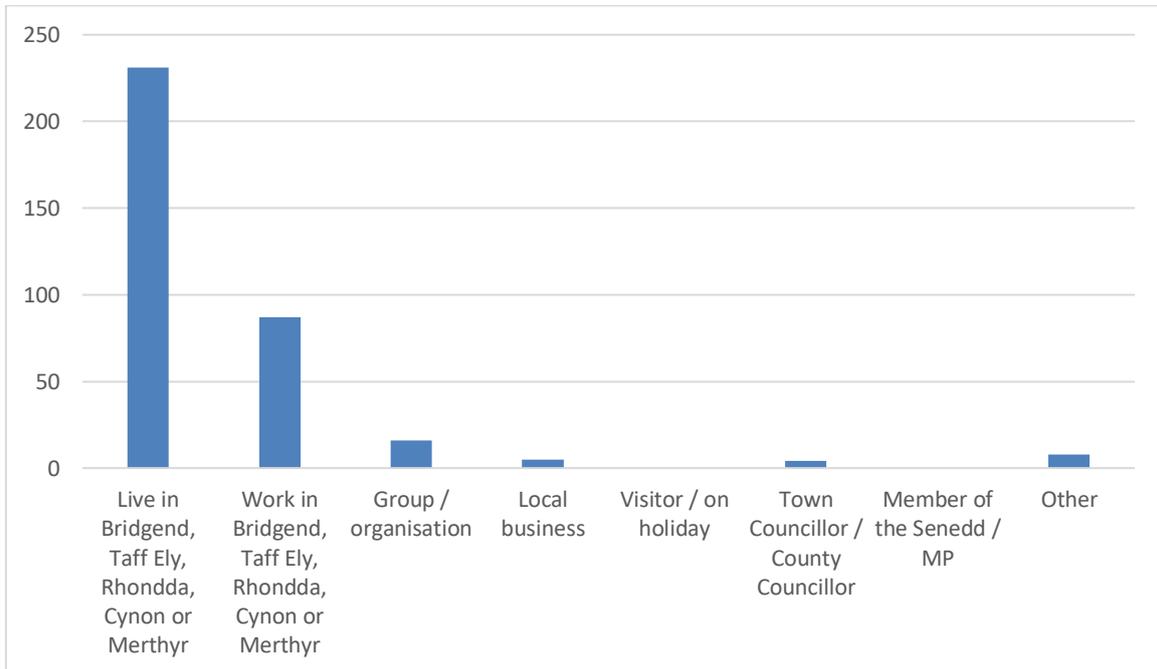
Respondents to the consultation survey were initially asked in which language they would like to complete the survey. Overall, **100% of respondents selected English with 0% selecting Welsh.**

Language	#	%
English	255	100%
Welsh	000	00
Total	255	100.0

6.2 Survey questions

6.2.1 How would you describe yourself as a respondent? (tick all that apply)

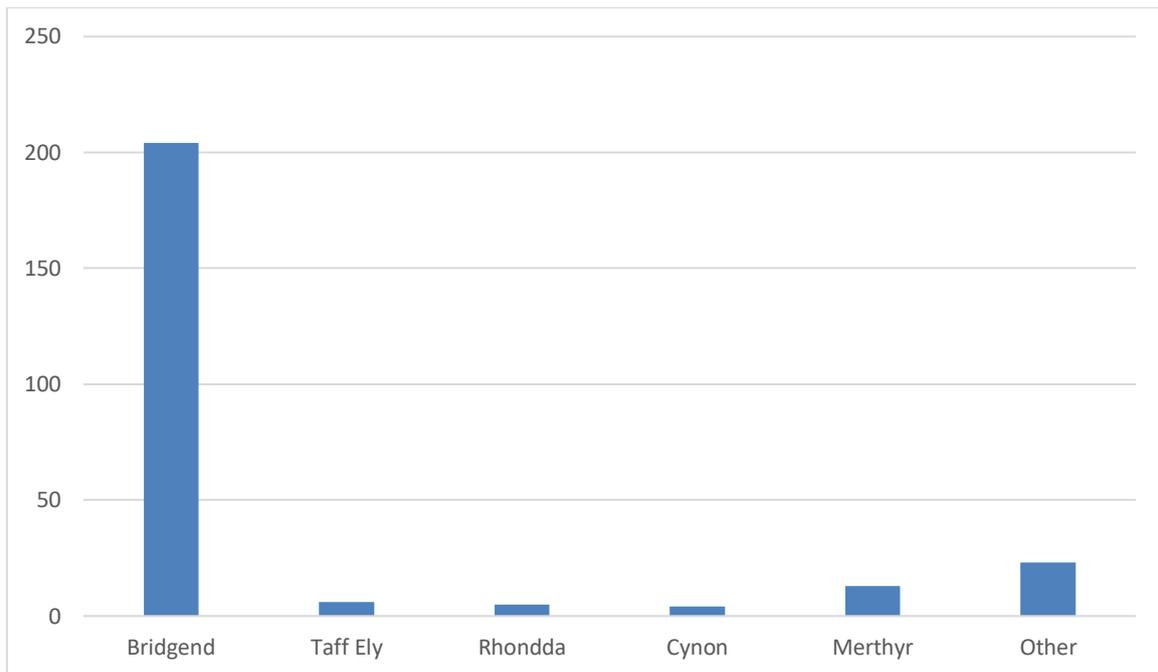
There were **351** responses to this question. Respondents were able to select multiple answers to this question.



Of the 351 respondents, **231 (67%)** live in Bridgend, Taff Ely, Rhondda, Cynon or Merthyr. **87 respondents (25%)** work in Bridgend, Taff Ely, Rhondda, Cynon or Merthyr. **16 respondents (4%)** were from a Group/Organisation. **5 respondents (1%)** were from a Local Business. **5 respondents (1%)** were a Town Councillor/ County Councillor and **8 respondents (2%)** selected other.

6.2.2 What area do you come from?

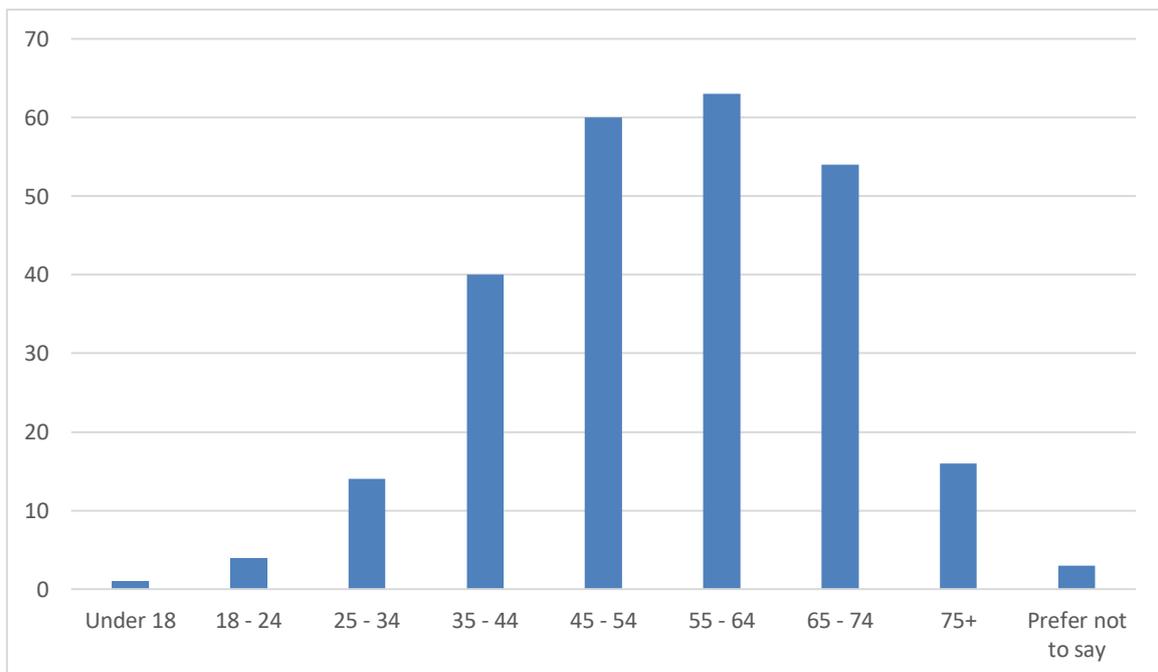
There were 255 responses to this question.



204 respondents (81%) of people stated that they lived in the Bridgend area. While **6 respondents, (2%)** lived in the Taff Ely area, **5 respondents (2%)** lived in the Rhondda area, **4 respondents (1%)** lived in the Cynon area. A further **13 respondents (5%)** lived in Merthyr and **23 respondents (9%)** selected other.

6.2.3 Please select your age category.

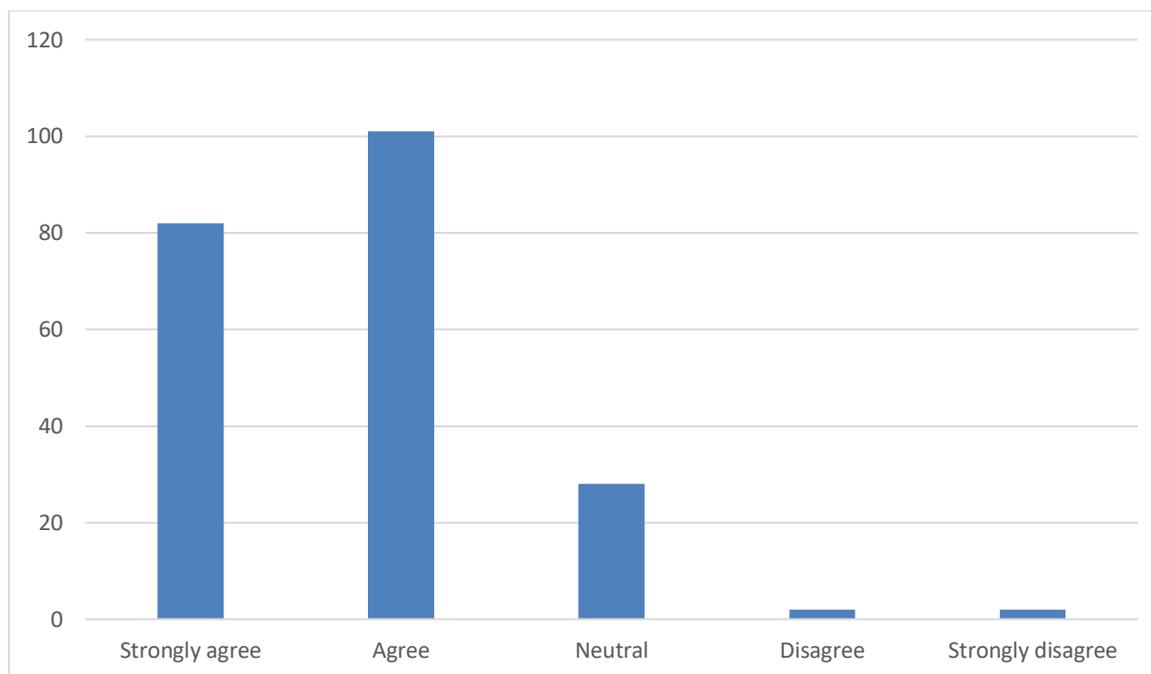
There were 255 responses to this question.



1 respondent was under 18 years of age. 4 respondents, (2%) were in the 18-24 bracket, **14 respondents (5%)** were 25-34 years of age, **40 respondents (16%)** were 35-44 years of age. While **60 respondents (24%)** were between the ages of 45-54, **63 respondents (25%)** were between the ages of 55-64, **54 respondents (21%)** were between the ages of 65 -74 and **16 respondents (6%)** were ages 75+. A further **3 respondents (1%)** preferred not to say their age.

6.2.4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the findings in summary sheet one on environmental well-being?

There were **215** responses to this question.



183 respondents (85%) strongly agreed or agreed with the findings in summary sheet one on environmental well-being. While **28 respondents (13%)** selected neutral. **4 respondents (2%)** stated that they strongly disagreed or disagreed with the findings.

6.2.5 Do you have any further comments on summary sheet one?

55 comments were made in relation to this question and have been themed in the table below:

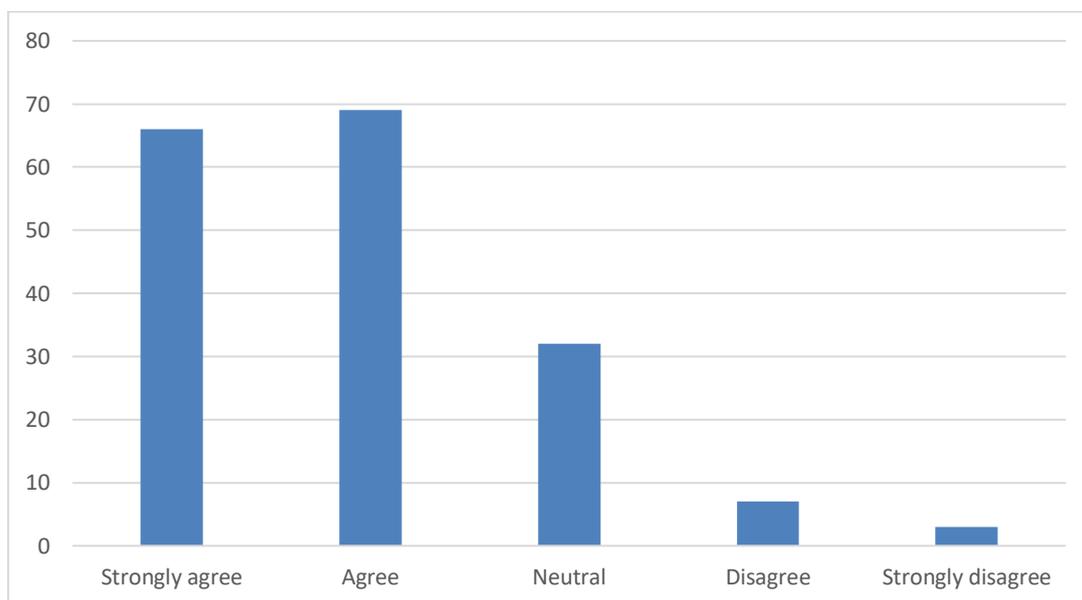
Theme	Responses
Need to Protect and utilise our green spaces	18
Balance of appropriate infrastructure and green spaces.	7
Implementing new environmentally friendly resources	6
Improving Facilities	4
Funding initiatives	3
Public Safety / Environmental Risk	3

Noise and traffic pollution due to excess cars on roads	1
Findings and plans should be publicised	1
Other Comments	12
Total	55

The top three themes for this question were as follows: **18 comments** were made in relation to protecting and utilising our green spaces, **7 comments** were made in relation to balancing appropriate infrastructure and green spaces and **6 comments** were made in relation to implementing new environmentally friendly resources.

6.2.6 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the findings in summary sheet two on housing and homelessness?

There were 177 responses to this question.



135 respondents (76.2%) strongly agreed or agreed with the findings in summary sheet two on housing and homelessness. While **32 respondents (18.2%)** selected neutral. **10 respondents (5.6%)** stated that they strongly disagreed or disagreed with the findings.

6.2.7 Do you have any further comments on summary sheet two?

60 comments were made in relation to this question and have been themed in the table below:

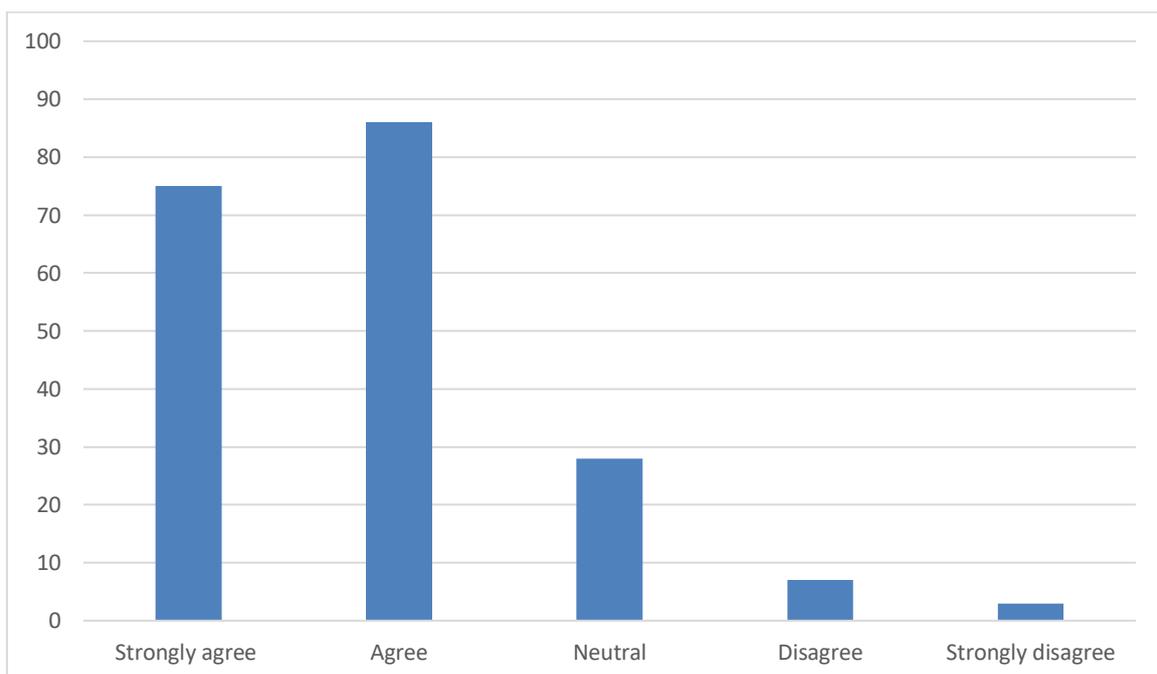
Theme	Responses
More Affordable Housing	15
Prevention / Accommodation for the homeless	13
Funding for affordable housing	6
Building a community as well as homes	5

More rental residential properties available	4
Put unused homes to use	2
Energy efficient social housing	2
Homelessness is too much of a priority	2
Appropriate size housing for the number of residents	1
Trouble with finding reliable tradespeople	1
Other Comments	9
Total Responses	60

The top three themes for this question were as follows: **15 comments** were made in relation to increasing affordable housing, **13 comments** were made in relation to preventing homelessness and finding accommodation for the homeless and **6 comments** were made in relation to funding for affordable housing.

6.2.8 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the findings in summary sheet three on adult physical health and well-being?

There were 199 responses to this question.



161 respondents (81%) strongly agreed or agreed with the findings in summary sheet four on physical health and wellbeing. While **28 respondents (14%)** selected neutral. **10 respondents (5%)** stated that they strongly disagreed or disagreed with the findings

6.2.9 Do you have any further comments on summary sheet three?

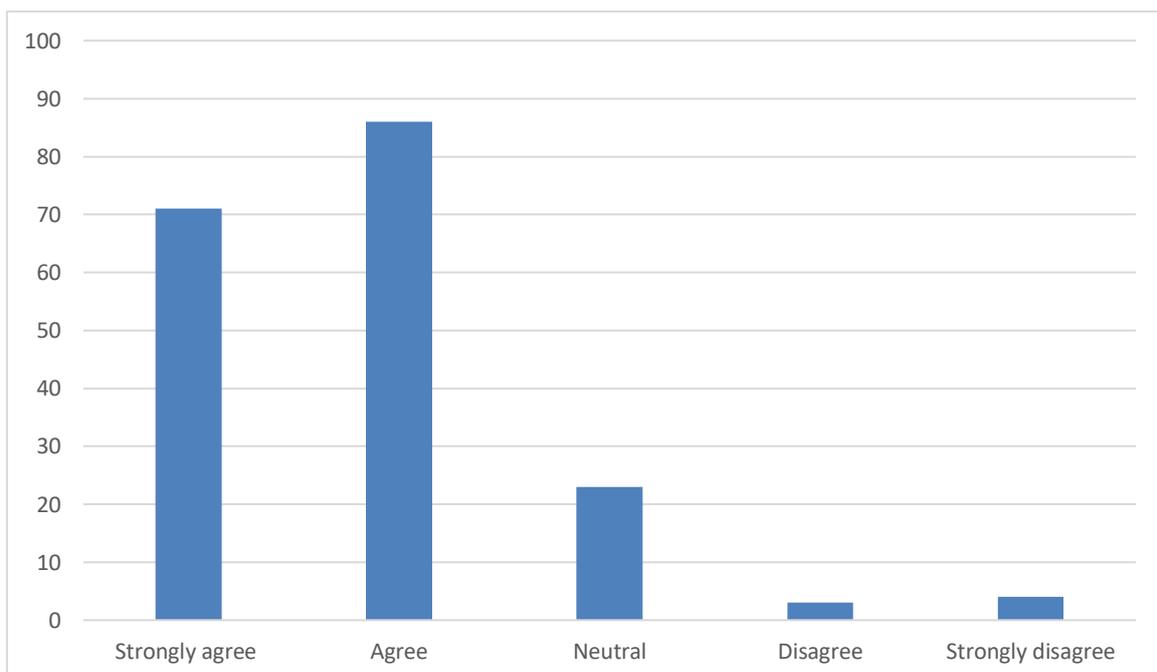
69 comments were made in relation to this question and have been themed in the table below:

Theme	Responses
Encourage and educate on healthy eating	11
Work with leisure centres, make activities more accessible and affordable	11
Protection and access to Green spaces	9
Ensure people are aware of the information and support available	8
Social prescribing in GPs	4
More support for Social care workers	3
Additional mobility support	3
More over 60s activities at affordable prices	2
Encourage community activities	2
Funding for community and residential homes.	2
Active travel plan to include all types of transportation	2
Other Comments	12
Total Responses	69

The top three themes for this question were as follows: **11 comments** were made in relation to encouraging and educating on healthy eating, **11 comments** were made in relation to ensuring leisure centres and activities more accessible and **9 comments** were made in relation to protecting green spaces.

6.2.10 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the findings in summary sheet four on social mental health and well-being?

There were 187 responses to this question.



157 respondents (84%) strongly agreed or agreed with the findings in summary sheet three on adult and physical health. While **23 respondents (12%)** selected neutral. **7 respondents (4%)** stated that they strongly disagreed or disagreed with the findings

6.2.11 Do you have any further comments on summary sheet four?

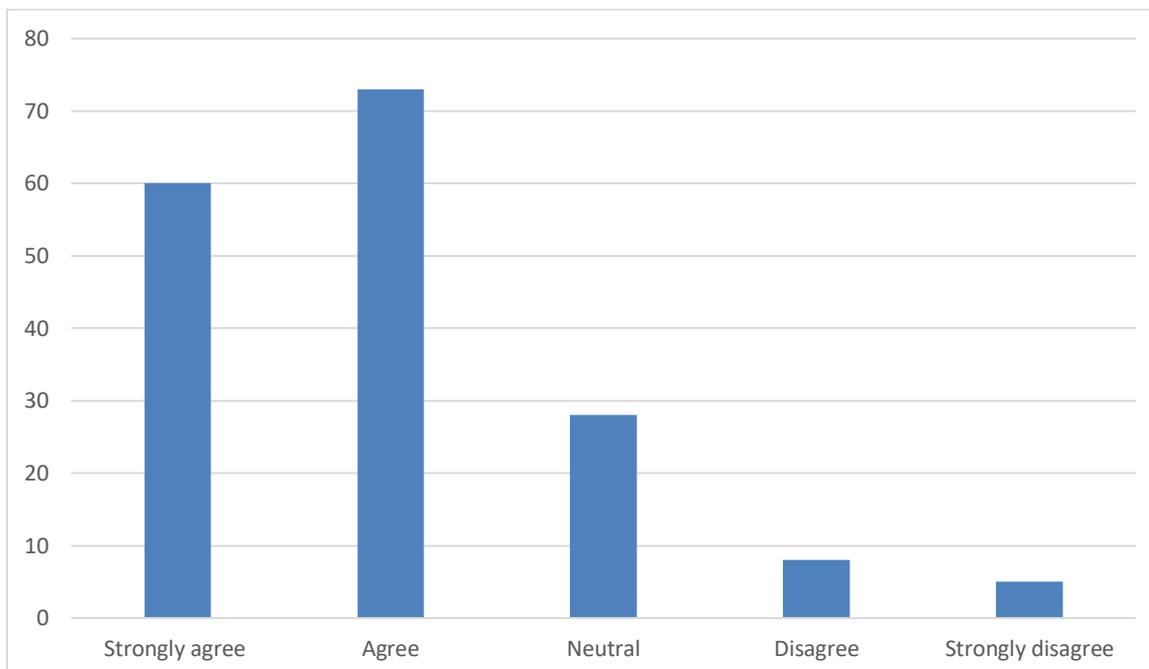
68 comments were made in relation to this question and have been themed in the table below:

Theme	Responses
Improvement to mental health based activities/ groups	18
Current Cost challenges	11
Increased promotion and awareness of well-being opportunities	10
Promote /Encourage individuals to take responsibility for their well-being	9
Facilities not accessible for all communities	5
More activities/sports clubs and support for young people	3
More promotion needed for Social activities for over 70s	2
Support and Re-open libraries	1
Other comments	9
Total	68

The top three themes for this question were as follows: **18 comments** were made in relation to improving mental health services, **11 comments** were made in relation to the current cost challenges and **10 comments** were made in relation to increasing promotion and awareness of well-being opportunities.

6.2.12 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the findings set out in the summary sheet on cultural well-being?

There were 174 responses to this question.



133 respondents (76.4%) strongly agreed or agreed with the findings in summary sheet five on cultural well-being. While **28 respondents (16.2%)** selected neutral. **13 respondents (7.4%)** stated that they strongly disagreed or disagreed with the findings.

6.2.13 Do you have any further comments on summary sheet five?

56 comments were made in relation to this question and have been themed in the table below:

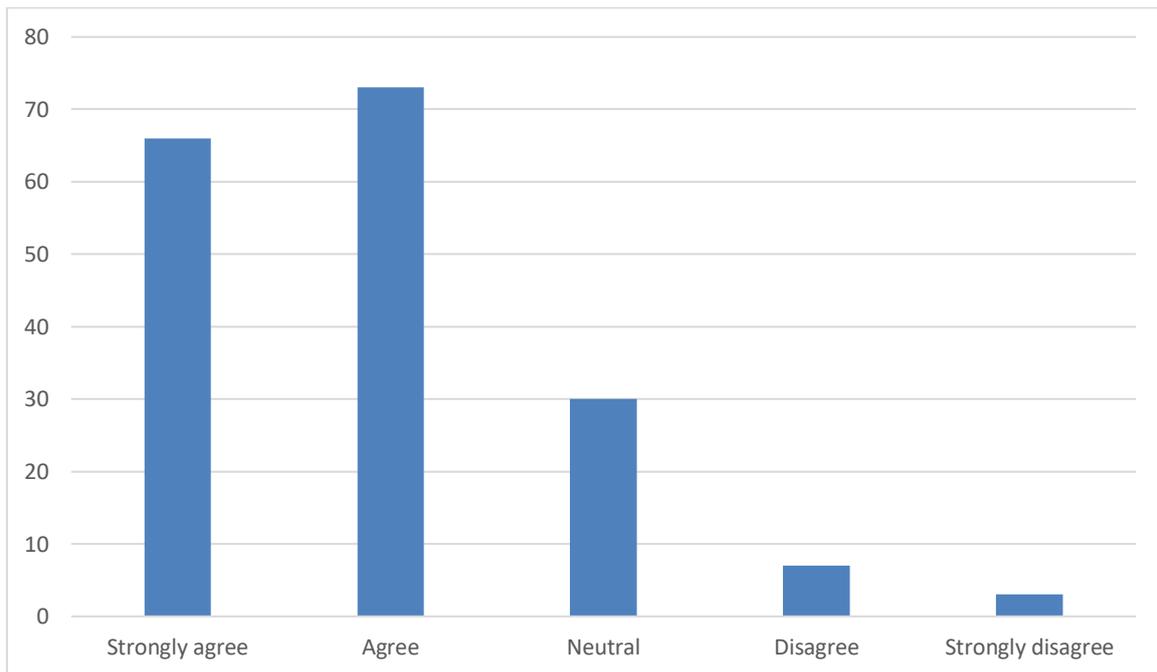
Theme	Response
Encourage and support local culture and history	11
No need for everyone to learn to speak Welsh	10
Cultural activities available in facilities across the borough	7
Public transport needs to be improved and more reliable	7
Libraries should be used as they are good for the community	3
No activities to engage with	1
Bottom up approach to decision making,	1
Very little resources and facilities in Porthcawl	1
No obvious voices heard from young people	1
Men Sheds help well-being, should be supported	1
Use of digital and remote activities for the Vulnerable	1

Other Comments	12
Total	56

The top three themes for this question were as follows: **11 comments** were made in relation to encouraging and supporting local culture and history, **10 comments** were made in relation to the Welsh language and **7 comments** were made in relation to cultural activities across the borough.

6.2.14 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the findings in the economic well-being summary sheet?

There were 179 responses to this question.



139 respondents (78%) strongly agreed or agreed with the findings in summary sheet six on economic well-being. While **30 respondents (17%)** selected neutral. **10 respondents (5%)** stated that they strongly disagreed or disagreed with the findings.

6.2.15 Do you have any further comments on summary sheet six?

59 comments were made in relation to this question and have been themed in the table below:

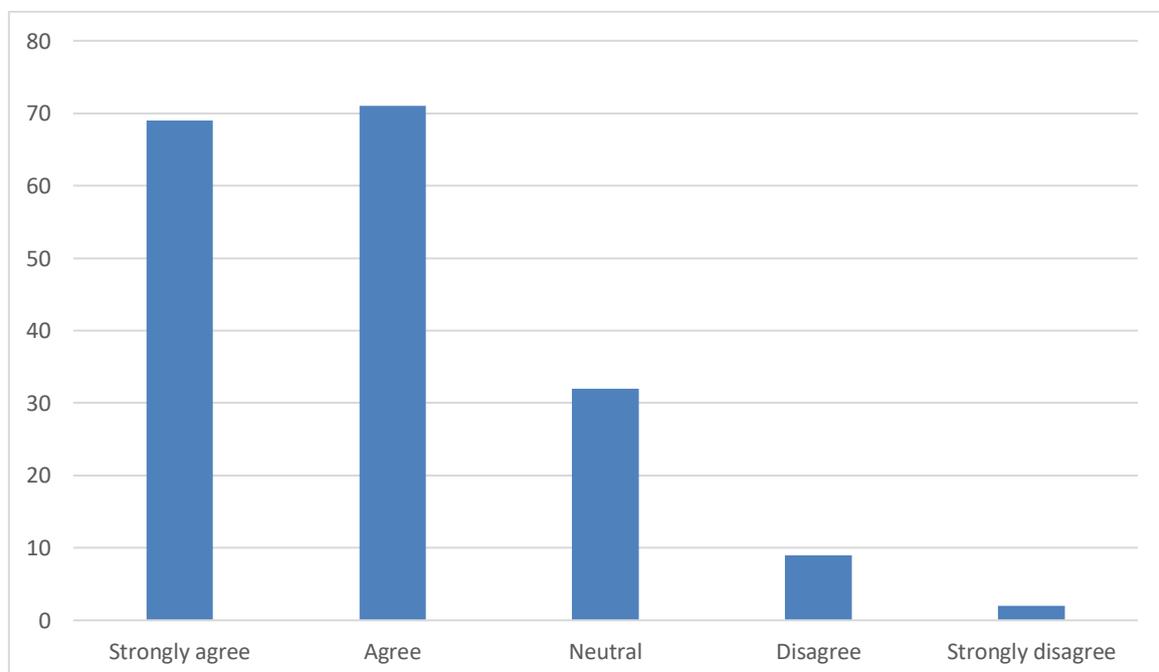
Theme	Responses
Cost of living challenges on individuals and local businesses	18
Reliable and efficient public transport	8
Encourage people to spend time, work and invest in local communities	6

Investment and redevelopment spread across the borough	4
Permanent Employment opportunities and support for Neuro-diverse and disabled people.	3
Schemes and volunteering for job seekers	3
Should be celebrating Genders	3
Regenerate Bridgend town centre	2
Unemployment in smaller valleys	2
Invest in utilising empty properties	1
Missing out some key role information	1
Encourage new local businesses in Porthcawl	1
Other Comments	7
Total	59

The top three themes for this question were as follows: **18 comments** were made in relation to the cost of living challenges, **8 comments** were made in relation to reliable public transport and **6 comments** were made in relation to encouraging people to spend time, work and invest in local communities.

6.2.16 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the findings in summary sheet seven?

There were 183 responses to this question.



140 respondents (77%) strongly agreed or agreed with the findings in summary sheet seven on community well-being. While **32 respondents (17%)** selected neutral. **11 respondents (6%)** stated that they strongly disagreed or disagreed with the findings.

6.2.17 Do you have any further comments on summary sheet seven?

69 comments were made in relation to this question and have been themed in the table below:

Theme	Responses
Future development for our communities	8
Safety of young and old in the community	7
Local community Co-ordinations within each community	6
Support and enhance the use of community hubs and volunteer groups	6
Boost aspiration and community spirit amongst individuals	5
Community opinion on the use of finance and resources	3
There's positive community Spirit and support available	2
Mental health support	2
Improved transport	2
Less outsourced agencies to improve on service given.	1
Dog fouling is an issue	1
Low costs and confidence in staying connected online	1
More support for deprived areas	1
Other comments	5
Total	50

The top three themes for this question were as follows: **8 comments** were made in relation to the future development of communities, **7 comments** were made in relation to the safety of individuals in their communities and **6 comments** were made in relation to local community co-ordinators within communities.

6.2.18 Please let us know of any further comments you would like to make with regards to the Public Services Boards' Well-being Assessment.

56 comments were made in relation to this question and have been themed in the table below:

Theme	Responses
Assessment was informative	12

More information on future plans - Future Generation and Decarbonisation to get community involved	7
Unhappy with processes	7
Green spaces, sports and recreational services are essential, should be protected and retained	6
More information on Consultations/Face to Face / Support those with engagement difficulties	5
Bottom up approach/Public say for decision making to re-engage our community.	5
Accessibility and transportation issues	4
Need More information of what services are available to the community	3
Bring the community together	3
More consideration for the Elderly and disabled people	3
Libraries/churches are a good community space in towns	2
More access to sports clubs, swimming pools/lidos	2
Affordable housing for DV victims and SARC in Bridgend.	1
Too politically influenced	1
Welsh language	1
Other Comments	7

The top three themes for this question were as follows: **12 comments** were made in relation to the information presented in the consultation, **7 comments** were made in relation to receiving more information on future plans and **7 comments** were made to express unhappiness with the consultation process.

7. Engagement with focus groups

Support Officers of the Public Services Board attended focus groups in the following areas, Merthyr Tydil, Bedlinog and Pentre on 7, 16, 17 March 2022. The focus were given an overview of the proposals and were invited to make comments. We engaged with forty-two people in this session. Comments made during this session have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

7.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the findings in summary sheet one on environmental well-being?

15 comments were received in response to this question.

Theme	Responses
-------	-----------

Need to Protect and utilise our green spaces	4
Balance of appropriate infrastructure and green spaces.	1
implementing new environmentally friendly resources	1
Public Safety / Environmental Risk	4
Litter enforcement	5
Total	15

7.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the findings in summary sheet two on housing and homelessness?

14 comments were received in response to this question.

Theme	Responses
More Affordable Housing	3
Prevention / Accommodation for the homeless	5
More rental residential properties available	3
Safety	
Cost of living	3
Total Responses	14

7.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the findings in summary sheet three on social mental health and well-being?

14 comments were received in response to this question.

Theme	Responses
Improvement to mental health based activities/ groups	7
Current Cost challenges	1
Increased promotion and awareness of well-being opportunities	2
Facilities not accessible for all communities	1
More well-being activities/sports clubs and support for young people	1
Effects of covid	2
Total	14

7.4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the findings in summary sheet four on adult physical health?

21 comments were received in response to this question.

Theme	Responses
Improvement to health based activities/ groups	7
Facilities not accessible for all communities	2
Reluctant to return to pre-Covid life	9
Weather	1
Loneliness	2
Total	21

7.5 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the findings in summary sheet five on cultural well-being?

22 comments were received in response to this question.

Theme	Response
Encourage and support local culture and history	10
Cultural activities available in facilities across the borough	5
Public transport needs to be improved and more reliable	6
Covid restrictions	1
Total	22

7.5 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the findings in summary sheet six on economic well-being?

19 comments were received in response to this question.

Theme	Responses
Reliable and efficient public transport	4
Encourage people to spend time, work and invest in local communities	4
Investment and redevelopment spread across the borough	1
Permanent employment opportunities and support for Neuro-diverse and disabled people.	1
Schemes and volunteering for job seekers	2
Should be celebrating genders	1
Barriers to working	4
Lack of services	4
Total	19

7.5 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the findings in summary sheet seven on community well-being?

17 comments were received in response to this question.

Theme	Responses
Future development for our communities	1
Safety of young and old in the community	1
Support and enhance the use of community hubs and volunteer groups	4
A positive community spirit and support available	6
Online communities	3
Improved transport	1
Dog fouling is an issue	1
Total	17

8. Conclusion

Using statistical analysis, based on a confidence level of 95% a sample of 255 survey completions is considered to be robust to a maximum standard error of $\pm 6.132\%$. Therefore, we can be 95% confident that the responses are representative of those that would be given by the total adult population, to within $\pm 6.132\%$ of the percentages reported.

This means that if the total adult population of Bridgend, RCT and Merthyr had taken part in the survey and a statistic of 50% was observed, we can be 95% confident that the actual figure lies between 44% (50-6) and 56% (50+6).

8.1 Equality Impact Assessment

The Full Equality Impact Assessment will be completed alongside the adoption of the Well-being Plan.

8.1 Summary

Information from this consultation will be used to form the evidence base for the Well-being Plan and will be used to identify the key priorities for the next five years. The Well-being Plan is due to be published in April 2023.

Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board: Well-being assessment

Feedback and advice from the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales,

23rd March 2022

1: Summary

- A strong, comprehensive well-being assessment.
- Well evidenced, drawing upon a mixed methods approach that effectively combines qualitative and quantitative sources of data and information.
- Clear, logical structure covering each dimension of well-being (culture, social, economy and environment) thoroughly.
- Demonstrates a commitment to involve the people and communities in your area.
- Identifies and explores the key issues affecting well-being in the area.
- Section 3 (below) highlights some areas that if further developed, would help to strengthen the assessment. These relate to: involvement, future trends, the better futures exercise, skills for the future, equality and maximising your contribution to Wales' well-being goals.
- Section 3 also outlines other (desirable) areas for consideration within the assessment.

2: Evidence of good practice in the well-being assessment

Process and methodology

While Bridgend PSB and Cwm Taf PSB both work separately at present, we note the intent to become one joint PSB across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg area, and that this joint well-being assessment is an important step in that process.

The 'Methodology' chapter is helpful in clearly setting out how the well-being assessment was developed. For example, it highlights a Community Assessment Action Group (CAG) was set up to bring together key members of the PSB and RPB to oversee the development of both the well-being assessment and population needs assessment, with two sub-groups established.

From the evidence presented, collaboration appears to have been a strong feature in the development of the assessment. You have worked closely with key partners, where for example, the input from Natural Resources Wales, South Wales Police and the Community Safety Partnership is cited, where they have provided significant amounts of data and knowledge to inform your analysis.

The draft assessment is underpinned by a strong understanding of the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The four main chapters are comprehensive, covering a wide range of topics, and explicit links are made to the Sustainable Development Principle alongside a chart illustrating how topics you've identified lie across multiple well-being goals and themes.

We welcome the wide range of qualitative and quantitative sources used to evidence findings, and a range of indicators are used to explore well-being outcomes for residents. For example, under health, the PSB considers healthy behaviours, rates of obesity, and related issues such as 'diabetics receiving amputations by age' alongside number of fast-food outlets per capita. Similarly, the assessment considers a range of sources in discussion of the gender pay gap, looking at gendered differences in sector, job role, and childcare responsibilities. Outlining gaps in data and limitations in the approach also demonstrates a rigorous interrogation of available data.

It's particularly helpful to see an overview included in the 'Methodology' chapter, which highlights some of the national sources of data used (e.g., Office of National Statistics; Stats Wales; Youth Justice Statistics etc), and some of the key partners where you also sourced data (e.g., the local authorities, South Wales Police, NRW and third sector organisations etc). This has ensured a comprehensive analysis for your area. It's also great to hear you held meetings with key services and groups to ensure the data and analysis being used was supported by local service information.

The draft assessment identifies 7 community areas and considers these within the area to compare levels of well-being. Good examples include the discussion on mental well-being which looks at how WMD indicators correlate with mental health along LSOA boundaries. Similarly, the wider discussions of deprivation under the economy section considers findings by ward.

A strength of your approach is the work on involvement, as outlined in the 'Bridgend and Cwm Taf PSBs' Engagement Report for the Well-being Assessment 2022'. This included a range of activities, demonstrating participant led approaches to involve residents in your area. The assessment includes the use of views and perspectives of residents throughout, which adds depth to the narrative and the key challenges and opportunities in the area.

There are clear links made to wider documents, strategies and research which ensures the assessment is relevant to the recent and emerging context for the area. Good examples include embedding the objectives of the Homeless Strategy (2018-2022) and drawing upon findings from the Campaign to End Loneliness.

There is good reflection on the impact of COVID-19, and what it has told you about your area. This includes reflection on the significant challenges it brought to key services and communities (at a time when communities in Rhondda Cynon Taf were experiencing the aftermath of flooding), the collaborative action taken to help communities in the area, and the key role of the voluntary sector.

Going further, the assessment recognises that responding to the pandemic has reinforced the interrelated nature of well-being, which *"points us towards having to find solutions in the round, with the importance of resilient communities and various agencies being adaptive in the future."* It's reassuring to see this reflection in the assessment, which is an important consideration for the PSB to keep in mind as attention shifts to the development of the well-being plan.

It's particularly positive to see your reflection on the role of the voluntary sector through the pandemic.

Recognition is also given to the role of the local authorities who acted as an important source of information for individuals and groups wanting to volunteer, signposting to key voluntary sector partners established in the region, such as BAVO, Interlink and VAMT.

There is good evidence of integration and narrative that seeks to draw connections through the draft assessment. For example, the 'Opportunities' section of the 'Mental Well-being' theme makes the links between physical and mental health, the environment and culture.

In the 'Environmental Pillar' chapter, the assessment identifies the opportunity for the PSB to be at the forefront of the response to impacts from climate change. It outlines opportunities including restoring degraded peatland, woodland creation, grass verges as wildlife corridors, and collaborative approaches such as Healthy Hillsides. Many of these opportunities are on publicly owned/managed land, providing the PSB with an opportunity to work together and lead the way.

The draft assessment outlines some of the approaches underway in the area to decarbonise. It's great to hear of the work South Wales Police have undertaken in developing a Climate Change

Strategy, which includes the development of green space and tree planting, where well-being initiatives for staff can be promoted and biodiversity enhanced to strengthen nature. As you state, learning from work like this can be shared and used to inspire other organisations, and we'd be happy to discuss ways we can potentially support you on this.

Content

The structure of the draft assessment is clear and works well. A linked contents page helps the reader find the relevant information, while each sub-topic has a small summary outlining key challenges, opportunities and what research participants have said. The 8 'summary fact sheets' are also a good addition to the assessment and provide clear, helpful overviews of the key headlines in your area and what you found from your work.

We welcome the use of examples throughout the assessment to highlight PSB and wider activity to improve well-being. Examples include: Welcome to Our Woods; 'Mental Health Matters Wales' and the 'Well-being Retreat'; 'Stronger Together Bridgend'; and regular and upcoming events that promote cultural well-being and the Welsh language, such as the 2024 Eisteddfod.

Similarly, a feature of the assessment that works well is where you highlight your success stories. For example, Treorchy being named the best high street in the UK in 2020 and using the natural beauty and cultural history of the former Tower Colliery in the Rhondda Valley to establish Zipworld Tower as a tourist attraction. In the environment chapter, the examples of Welcome to our Woods, Skyline and the Valleys Regional Park (among others) are shared. And in the cultural well-being chapter, there are numerous great examples included such as the work of Awen's creative team during the pandemic aimed at isolated people, and the funding obtained to redevelop the Muni Arts Centre.

Collaborative working is demonstrated in many of these examples. To highlight one example, the 'Wellbeing Retreat' is a collaboration between Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB, Bridgend Social Services, South Wales Police and other third sector partners which provides an out of hours service in Bridgend to reduce barriers in accessing mental health support (launched in December 2020). It's particularly good to hear you state it appears to be making a positive impact on those who have accessed it with 100% of people reporting feeling safe and listened to via the service.

The section on community cohesion is strong, with a particular strength being the information provided on community safety and crime. The sections focussed on the Welsh language and the 'Celebrating Welsh Language and Cultures' are also strong additions to the assessment. It's great, for example, to see reference made to the work ongoing to prepare Welsh Language strategies in the area for the next 5 years, the inclusion of the future priorities of the Urdd and reference to the National Eisteddfod being held in RCT in 2024, with opportunities being considered on how this could benefit the increase in Welsh language in your local communities.

The 'Summary' section of the social well-being chapter states: *"Our data and analysis shows that there are positives for us to build on and more can be done to utilise the impact of our work across the pillars as we continue our ambition for the region to be a safe, enjoyable, and healthy place to live."* Identifying and building on these positives will be key for your PSB as focus shifts to the development of well-being objectives and steps for your well-being plan.

3: Areas that could be further developed

Important areas for consideration

Building on the extensive work already undertaken for your well-being assessment, below are areas we consider to be important for your consideration. If developed further, they would help strengthen the assessment overall.

Involvement

The 'Bridgend and Cwm Taf PSBs' Engagement Report for the Well-being Assessment 2022' sets out your approach to involvement in developing the assessment and the key findings from the activity. We're grateful for early sight of this report, helping us provide meaningful feedback to the work.

It's great to hear you combined your involvement activity with the Regional Partnership Board and ran an innovative '100 Days of Engagement Framework'. This approach involved a variety of activities that included partner agencies from across the region (all listed in appendix 9), focused on the four dimensions of well-being. For example, the report explains the use of hackathons, events aimed at bringing together people with lived experiences, professionals, decision makers and creative producers to explore themes with specific interest groups where a series of solutions, ideas or thoughts can be developed.

The report identifies seven communities of interest were involved: children; young people; older people; disability; Black, Asian and minority ethnic; veterans and violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. And the 'Demographics of people engaged' section provides an overview of responses to your activity and a clear demographic breakdown. For example, it highlights group discussions engaged 87 people from BAME communities from across the region and included 9 people from the deaf community and 183 people with learning disabilities and physical disabilities.

The findings within the report are insightful and bring rich qualitative information to compliment the data presented within the main assessment. Based on the findings of the work, section 4 of the report sets out 18 recommendations. These range from gaps around LGBTQ communities and intersectionality to transport, digital exclusion and caring. Elsewhere, the report highlights transport as a common theme impacting upon all four dimensions of well-being, and housing and green spaces were also identified as critically important. It's also good to see the findings of each of the communities of interest detailed in the appendices, as well as the information set out on the 'Better Futures Cwm Taf Morgannwg' futures exercise with Young People in the area.

Within the assessment itself, the inclusion of quotes works well. Some of these are a powerful addition to the narrative and data presented, e.g., *"I'd like to see English schools do more about what it is to be Welsh - our history and our culture – and more Welsh language support for those parents who can't speak Welsh but send their children to Welsh school. I know they want to have a million Welsh speakers by 2050 but I can't see anyone doing anything about it."*

Overall, there is much to be commended on your work to seek to engage and involve people and communities across your area. Below are some suggestions shared simply to encourage you to consider if there are ways to build on your engagement work to date, and ensure the assessment incorporates and reflects the energy and collaboration that's gone into the work:

- Include a brief overview of the engagement report within the methodology chapter of the assessment to summarise the key reflections and findings of your engagement work.
- Include some further reflection on your thinking and approach to involvement going forward, as attention shifts to the well-being plan. For example, are you clear on what you feel has worked well, and the areas you feel you could (potentially) improve? Are there opportunities to incorporate some lived experiences in your assessment, or the well-being plan? Are you clear on your immediate next steps, building on the work to date?

- Consider ways to make quotes from residents more prominent within the text of the document. For example, via coloured text or a coloured background.

To help inform the next stages of the well-being planning process, the Co-production Network for Wales is producing advice and guidance based on the way in which involvement and co-production has been embedded in the well-being process so far. Building on your work with the Co-Production network for Wales to date, we encourage your PSB teams and coordinators to help shape this guidance with them, as it develops.

Future trends

The draft assessment demonstrates some consideration and reference to longer-term information. Examples are highlighted below:

- Some of the narrative within the environmental well-being chapter is supported by data within the future trends slide pack (shared with PSBs by Welsh Government in 2021).
- The 'Key Demographics (Population)' chapter includes data on longer-term demographics and some interpretation of its potential implications, e.g., it identifies that overall, the younger population is decreasing and states: *"Having smaller families may continue to impact on the social care sector in that, as this population ages they may not have the wider family support structure to care for them."*
- The engagement report includes an overview of the responses to your survey in relation to 'Future challenges'. These included concerns regarding: health services and the implications for personal health; climate change and the local environment; the local economy; crime and anti-social behaviour; and transport.
- The 'Better Futures Cwm Taf Morgannwg' futures exercise carried out with young people.
- The 'Opportunities' sections within chapters are forward looking and the narrative looks ahead in some instances, where for example, it highlights the lack of staff entering the health and social care workforce will be a key challenge for the near future.

Building on the work undertaken to date, the draft assessment would be strengthened if clearer links could be made to the 2021 future trends report for Wales, across the four dimensions of well-being. This includes ensuring you have made the links to the four big drivers of change and two public service drivers the report identifies.

We also encourage you to be assured each of the topics identified within the assessment includes some analysis and interpretation of what the key future trends might mean for Cwm Taf Morgannwg locally, where this is possible to do so. Identifying the links and potential implications between the broad, high level trends and your local context is very important for the PSB as work begins on its well-being plan. Looking ahead, it would also be helpful if additional insight could be provided to understand how the PSB will continue to consider and embed future trends information as its focus shifts to the well-being plan, and the setting of objectives and steps. Futures techniques are effective tools for engaging with others and prompting constructive discussion in a way that can help develop plans that deliver meaningful change. In their feedback to PSBs, NRW are offering to run Three Horizons workshop to help support the incorporation of future trends into the well-being planning process, and we encourage you to consider taking up this offer, if you haven't already.

Better futures exercise with young people

Complimenting the work within the assessment, appendix 10 of the engagement report sets out information on the 'Better Futures Cwm Taf Morgannwg' futures exercise run with young people in the area (in December 2021). As part of this work, the participants were taken on a journey through various tools starting with "dreaming big" and developing positive "seeds of change" to "spark positive and energetic conversations about a positive future".

Particularly striking is the information found within the 3 recommendations, where it was observed how challenging participants found the process of finding examples of interventions or approaches that inspired them on the issues of positive mental health, environmental change, connected communities and equal access to opportunities. Here, it recommends providing young people with the opportunity to see and experience examples of what could be done differently within their communities, which in turn become seeds of change for the future.

Another is that many of the workshop participants expressed feelings of powerlessness during the workshop, with a recommendation to provide opportunities for young people in the area to create change within their communities so that their enthusiasm has a positive and fulfilling outlet.

While we note the participant numbers were lower than anticipated, these are powerful recommendations for the PSB to consider. Linked to our point below in the 'Other areas for consideration (desirable)' section on the potential inclusion of a 'Next Steps' section, the final assessment could include information on how the PSB intends to use this information as a springboard to involve young people in the development of the well-being plan. We would also welcome being kept informed on how this work develops.

Skills for the future

The 'Summary' of the economic chapter recognises that skills development and the supply of an appropriately skilled workforce is a key driver of economic growth. The chapter also highlights the need to retain 'local talent' by providing opportunities to younger people, and makes links to schools, further and higher education, local business and the regional skills partnership.

To build on these findings and the work undertaken to date, we encourage you to consider the findings in our recent report on the skills needed to transition to a low carbon economy. It finds that across Wales there are significant skills gaps in green industries which must be addressed. This will be helpful information and context for both your economy and environment chapters.

Equality

Both the draft assessment and engagement report are strong in their consideration of equality. Examples of good practice includes consideration of minority groups and sexual identity within the 'Key Demographics (Population)' chapter, the latest data on the gender pay gap and the ethnicity pay gap, and feedback shared from your engagement with the BAME community in the 'Community Cohesion' chapter, where concerns were raised relating to belonging and some feelings of isolation where one person stated: "I want to make this my home, but I feel like an outsider". Going further, the 'Community Cohesion' chapter goes on to share information on the 'Human Library' initiative being developed in RCT as a way of bringing communities together, where people from different backgrounds share their cultural experiences.

There is a particularly good focus on 'Disabled persons employment' where local data is used and referred to (the Community Impact Assessment undertaken for Merthyr Tydfil, Blaenau Gwent and RCT) together with global studies where you highlight: "The bottom line is that, all over the world, a person with a disability is less likely to be employed than a person without a disability, often much

less so (quoted in Bonaccio et al 2019).” Again, the narrative goes further in exploring ways of pro-actively recruiting people with disabilities, and shares findings from a study undertaken by the Department of Work and Pensions which looked at the recruitment behaviour of small and medium sized enterprises, and the suggestion of a ‘job broker’ to match disabled applicants to specific employment vacancies.

It’s also reassuring to see the information and data provided on hate crime, broken down across the three areas. Unfortunately, you highlight that the number of reported hate crimes is increasing, contrary to national statistics where in RCT for example, there has been a consistent increase relating to race, disability and sexual orientation and a slight increase relating to transgender.

Building on the positive work undertaken so far, we encourage you to further consider how intersectionality affects people in your area. For example, what is it like to be young and disabled in Cwm Taf Morgannwg? We also recommend ensuring all ‘protected characteristics’ outlined in the Equality Act are considered within the assessment.

While some of the information presented is detailed and comprehensive, less clear (at times) is the action and work being undertaken within the area to help address challenges, e.g., in relation to hate crime. Where possible, including some additional information on this within the final assessment would help strengthen it overall.

With regards to the pandemic, it’s reassuring to see the assessment recognise how it has exposed existing inequalities. Alongside our advice above on future trends, we encourage you to consider the implications of our recent report with Public Health Wales: ‘Inequality in a future Wales’. It highlights how changing demographics, the future of work and climate change could increase existing inequalities if the impacts on different groups in society are not factored in.

For reference, the next stage of this work is being undertaken in collaboration with FLiNT (Futures Literature Through Narrative). Authors will work with communities most likely to be affected by climate change to ensure their voices are heard, and then shape policy solutions that work for both people (inequalities) and planet (climate change). This work also aims to help develop capability and capacity building for everyone, and the key findings and methodology of the work will be shared with PSBs in due course.

Maximising the PSB’s contribution to Wales’ well-being goals

Understanding the full definition of Wales’ well-being goals can help ensure the assessment is considering the wide range of topics and themes of well-being within your area.

The table below sets out areas that could be explored further within the assessment, and/or taken into consideration for the well-being plan. It is appreciated that it may not be possible for all the information below to be fully considered / incorporated in your assessment. Instead, you may wish to choose some areas to compliment the extensive work you have already undertaken:

Other areas for consideration (desirable)

These are areas you might wish to amend / update to strengthen the assessment overall:

- **Next steps:** In finalising your assessment, it may be helpful to include a ‘Next Steps’ section. This could provide a high-level overview of the PSB’s next steps as attention shifts from publication of the assessment to the development of your well-being plan, and any further information on how the PSB intends to progress the engagement work, in particular. It could also include information on how residents can continue to be involved and be kept up to date with developments.
- **Clarity of Data:** While we welcome the wide range of data used within the assessment. there are instances where the data (and its implications) could be made clearer for the reader. For example, the Free School Meal eligibility table (p100) would be clearer and more powerful in the form of a graph to demonstrate the correlation of FSM legibility and school attainment.
- **Hyperlinks:** There are occasions where long web links are included in the text (e.g., the ‘Assessment of environmental well-being’ chapter). It would be helpful if these could be hyperlinked into some of the words within the text. We also recommend including hyperlinks to help navigate the document. For example, when the assessment says “see environment section” to explore more about flooding, this would then be easier to access.
- **Highlighting activity and good practice:** Coupled with our advice above under ‘Involvement’ to help resident’s quotes appear more prominent in the text, it would be beneficial if this could also be applied

to help your area's projects, initiatives and examples of best practice stand out more clearly. This could be in the form of separate text boxes structured as case studies for example, to help highlight the work underway in the area to improve well-being.

- **Collaboration:** Any additional information that could be included on how the PSB collaborated to develop this assessment would be helpful for other PSBs in Wales, as cross-sector collaboration is a challenging but often effective means of delivering social change.

4: Resources to help inform your next steps

Below are resources that can help inform your next steps, as you move from well-being assessment to well-being plan:

- Chapter 4 of the Future Generations Report: '**Setting Good Well-being Objectives**'
- The '**Future Generations Framework for Projects**'
- Case Studies of how the Act is being implemented on the ground in Wales
- Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales: **Resources**

Appendix 2 - Welsh Government

Thank you for sight of Cwm Taf and Bridgend PSBs' Assessment of Local Well-being. Welsh Government acknowledges that the preparation of an assessment and the supporting evidence is a significant undertaking and recognises the amount of work that has been accomplished. Covid-19 has brought huge challenges to the public sector and PSB partners have demonstrated real dedication and resolve in overcoming some truly testing situations over this period. PSBs are demonstrating that they too have a crucial role to play in the recovery from the pandemic, in considering the social, economic, environmental and cultural impacts on communities and co-ordinating the longer-term response. We therefore recognise that the assessments have been prepared during extraordinary circumstances and this has been taken into consideration when reviewing them.

We also acknowledge that this is the first time you have come together to produce a joint assessment and the work that has gone into producing a piece of work for two PSB areas. Our focus has been on the main areas we consider will go towards providing you with a comprehensive view of the state of well-being in your area, ultimately equipping you with a good, clear understanding of the sort of priorities you as a PSB can target your collective efforts to best effect on in your well-being plan. These are the second round of assessments and it is hoped that there will be lessons learned from the first iteration, building on what happened previously.

We have structured our response to the consultation on your assessment in the same way as in 2017 which is as follows:

- ▣ **General comments** providing an overview of thoughts on the assessment;
- ▣ More **specific comments** on the way in which the analysis has been undertaken and presented and the way in which the statutory requirements have been met;
- ▣ A **final summary table** which identifies the areas we would suggest could benefit from further development. We are adopting a consistent approach to these matters which have been categorised as follows:
 - **Category A** ▣ these are significant issues which we would hope would be addressed prior to publication of the well-being assessment. They might relate, for example, to compliance with the statutory requirements or a fundamental issue with the quality of the analysis

- **Category B** □ these are matters which are important and would support a better informed well-being plan and we would hope could be addressed alongside the development of the plan
- **Category C** – these are matters which would strengthen the assessment but could be addressed over time.

We will be using the same approach in responding to each of the assessments.

Overall Thoughts

This assessment demonstrates clearly the commitment that Cwm Taf and Bridgend PSBs have made to embrace the challenge of assessing well-being in the area. It engages well with the key areas identified in the statutory and non-statutory guidance and demonstrates good use of a range of evidence to support the analysis. The assessment is very comprehensive and we recognise the amount of time and effort that has gone into this. The work that has been done provides a strong foundation to build on.

Our evaluation identifies some areas for further development which, if addressed could strengthen the assessment. These include more of an attempt to interpret what the data means for well-being and public services across the PSB and its communities, and also providing a greater emphasis on the communities that have been identified and the differences that exist between them.

Comments on particular aspects of the Assessment

Statutory Requirements

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (WFG Act) specifies a number of areas that the assessment must cover. This assessment appears to cover the statutory requirements contained in the WFG Act, but to varying degrees.

The assessment states that the Cwm Taf and Bridgend region has been split into seven community areas based on the health board cluster areas. However, there is an element of confusion because the map of the health board clusters on page 7 shows eight community areas (Taff Ely is shown on the map but is not in the list), so some clarification on the community areas and their boundaries is needed.

The introduction notes that data has been broken down by community area, where this information is available, and there is some reference to the communities in parts of the assessment. We would, however, like to see more analysis broken down by the community areas throughout and any differences or similarities between the community areas highlighted. Overall, a more in-depth assessment of the well-being of each community would give a better understanding of the diversity of the PSB areas, and how the varying characteristics of each community impact on well-being. This in turn will help determine the priorities. Additionally a summary of the community areas at the beginning of the assessment would be beneficial in order to gain an understanding of the areas' characteristics and how they differ.

The National Indicators have been referenced throughout the assessment, along with the statutory assessments and reviews which the WFG Act specifies the board must consider when preparing the well-being assessment.

Structure and Format

The assessment has a very clear structure – topics are set out logically under the headings 'what the data tells us', 'strengths', and 'opportunities', together with useful summaries provided at the end of each 'pillar', which overall makes the assessment easier to read.

The sections on 'what does the data tell us' tend to focus more on the quantitative analysis and include a lot of tables and charts, which do not always add to or support the analysis or the discussion. A number of charts contain a lot of information and cover different time periods and this can sometimes make them quite difficult to interpret (see for example charts 25-27 on pages 41-42). There is also a need to ensure that the charts and tables are consistently presented and include a full title, an x and y label and the data source. All tables should also ensure figures are right-aligned.

It is also helpful to see the framing of the different sections as 'challenges' which helps to put the subsequent analysis in context. It would be interesting to know how the challenges were identified.

It would be beneficial for the assessment to have a high-level summary at the beginning, setting out the key priorities identified. This will help the board and general public to clearly understand the priority issues for the board and Cwm Taf and Bridgend's public services.

Finally, we noted that the summary fact sheets for social well-being don't seem to match up to the headings that have been used in the main assessment and we wondered if there was a reason for this.

Engagement

The Community Assessment Action Group (CAG) was established to take responsibility for the data and engagement of the PSB and RPB assessments, and there is good evidence of involvement and collaboration through the group. The assessment doesn't explicitly say whether the PSBs have drawn on data and evidence from partners' surveys, for example, rather than undertaking bespoke surveys. From the discussions we have had with the PSBs, this is our understanding, but it would be useful to make this clear in the assessment.

Balance and Comprehensiveness

All four of the well-being pillars are covered in a well-balanced and comprehensive way, providing a really good starting point for understanding what the issues are. As with other assessments we have reviewed, social well-being has the most weight and contains the most detailed thematic analysis.

Brexit and the impacts on the region is an important area that doesn't appear to have been fully considered e.g. reflections on what it might mean for the dependency on a migrant workforce, numbers of foreign students studying at the university and colleges, etc. For resources relating to the impacts of Brexit you may wish to consider the briefing on Brexit that was published by the Wales Centre for Public Policy for PSBs Well-being briefings for Public Services Boards | WCPP.

Additionally, we thought an important aspect that appeared to be missing from the economic chapter was consideration of the wider region and the numbers of people who travel outside of the Cwm Taf and Bridgend area to work, for example to Cardiff and Swansea, and what this means for the area.

Reflective and Critical Approach

The assessment adopts a certain degree of honesty and reflectiveness. The CAG data group was established to reflect on the data gathered and identify any gaps. However, there could be more reflection on the evidence sources used, their strengths and limitations, any inconsistencies or contradictions between them, and where further research is required.

There are references to the impacts of Covid-19, but mainly in relation to the impact on public services and partners working together (and to some extent well-being), rather than to the impact it had on data. The assessment could be strengthened by reflecting more consistently on the impact on data and trends across all the well-being pillars and also by providing a wider discussion on the impact of Covid-19 on engagement activities and the ability of the PSB to collect data and intelligence.

What would also be interesting to read about is the process of the two PSBs working together on one well-being assessment, what challenges this caused, what made things easier, and what, if any lessons were learned from it. All of these things would go towards making a more well-rounded assessment.

Quality of Analytical Approach

The assessment uses a good range of data from national and local sources, taking into account the national well-being indicators. The creation of the Community Assessment Action Group has played a vital part in this.

The introduction includes some information on the approach taken to the collection and analysis of the evidence and data, but it would be useful to include more detail in this section – for example, how information was gathered from organisations and partners (i.e. surveys, workshops etc.) and how the data and evidence was analysed.

Much of the data presented is quantitative. This could be strengthened by more use of insights from engagement and qualitative intelligence from partners. Where qualitative evidence from the engagement exercises is drawn upon, for example to support findings from the quantitative analysis or to discuss opportunities for the future under each theme, it works really well and

enhances the analysis. At the moment there is a foundation for a good response analysis, but greater use of qualitative insights would help build on this. Additionally, more use of the community areas in the response analysis (what does this all mean for the PSB regions and the community areas within it) will also help to inform the well-being plan.

Future Trends

Future trends and prospects for the PSB areas have been included for certain themes throughout the assessment, mainly within the sections on 'what the data tells us' and 'opportunities'. We think that this particular aspect of the assessment could be further strengthened by including more detail on projections and future trends. It could be that this is part of the next stage of work for the preparation of the plan, but it's unclear at present. Overall, the assessment provides an analysis of where things are now and could be strengthened with a greater focus on future trends and scenarios, and what this means for the longer term well-being of future generations, and impacts on public services. We would suggest considering the PSB Futures Impact/Certainty Matrix and including this in the introduction / early in the assessment as an effective way to clearly set out issues to be monitored, issues that require further research and issues that are critical and need to be prioritised.

Feedback from other policy areas

Based on the feedback we have received from policy specialists across the Welsh Government, there are some very specific areas which we highlight for your consideration. For example:

From a climate change perspective, the assessment focuses more on biodiversity, extreme weather events (particularly deluges) and coastal flooding. This is understandable given recent flooding and storm events. However, it means significant gaps for other areas. For example, whilst there are strengths described in the economy section in relation to low carbon employment, there appears to be little data to back this up. For example, how might agriculture or industry need to change in the next decade to meet climate targets and what effect will that have on employment? There will be opportunities and risks.

The assessment lacks a reference to the importance of childcare generally in helping children's social development or the impact that the provision of Welsh language childcare can have in supporting the growth of Welsh language, providing parental choice etc.

The assessment provides a well-rounded holistic approach to poverty. It considers different factors and links. For example, it assesses the impact of poor quality housing, employment, income, single person households, living wage, material deprivation, etc. and how that can affect obesity, mental health, attainment, intergenerational cycles of poverty, and long term prospects.

Areas for development:

Category A:

Category B: Clarification of the community areas and their boundaries (see 'Statutory Requirements' paragraph).

More attempt to compare and contrast the community areas (see 'Statutory Requirements' paragraph).

Ensure that the charts and tables are consistently presented and include a full title, an x and y label and the data source (see 'Structure and Format' paragraph).

Category C:

Findings:

Developing **Meeting Expected** Greater depth

We agree with the general findings of the Well-being Assessment.

In addition to the full well-being assessment, the consultation has provided 7 summary sheets to facilitate feedback on well-being. Links to the importance of the natural environment to well-being was made in many of the summary sheets and appeared to be recognised as an important asset in the area, contributing to peoples mental and physical wellbeing.

Climate change, and the urgency of the climate and nature emergencies and their impact on future generations didn't get the prominence we might have expected, we have provided more information in the tables below.

Energy: It is important to note that the recent increase in energy prices could have a significant impact on wellbeing with likely increases in fuel poverty, higher costs of operating businesses, economy, inflation etc. The rise in energy prices will impact on everything, not just electricity and gas price of homes and businesses. It will increase the cost of food, transport, everyday goods as everything requires energy in the making and the cost will be transferred to consumers. This could have both short- and long-term impact on general wellbeing.

Recommendations for the Assessment	Aspirations for future Well-being Plan development	NRW Contributions
<p>The main document and summary sheet use the statement <i>Air quality is generally good</i>. This doesn't appear to be in keeping with the detail in the main report and is an unreferenced statement. We'd like to see clarity on this statement.</p> <p>It is good to see cross references to health in the environmental, cultural and economic (via the WIMD data) pillar sections. We recommend using the 'wider determinants of health' model to aid explanations. For more information see measuring-the-health-and-well-being-of-a-nation.pdf (gov.wales)</p>	<p>The next phase of Well-being Plan development will get to the bottom of the key local issues such as those mentioned above, identifying the main drivers by applying root cause analysis with PSB</p>	<p>NRW would like to offer the PSB an opportunity to be involved in hosting a focus group to jointly explore what citizens want for the future of the natural environment and the actions we can all take to safeguard it for the future. This would form part of the national conversation (Natur a Ni / Nature and Us) being hosted by NRW with support from Welsh Government. The results of this focus group, together with the outputs from the national conversation specific to your PSB area, can be woven into longer-term planning through the development of the Well-being Plan.”</p> <p>Please contact NaturaNi@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk for more information about this</p>

Figure 1: The determinants of health and well-being in our neighbourhoods



Source: Barton, Grant. A health map for the local human habitat. 2006¹

A separate health section added an element of confusion. The general social pillar already covers 'health' and loneliness and 'general health' would fit here. There is a risk that having 'Health' as a separate section will mean that readers looking for Health will go straight to this section and miss all the previous social pillar health data. This 'general health' section could move further up to page 21, followed by the adult then child detailed health data. Loneliness could go after community cohesion.

There are a number of issues which could be referenced throughout the document – i.e., there is a section on antisocial behaviours, yet the link to wildfires in the environmental pillar is not made.

Energy

Whilst high level energy messages [i) importance of energy in delivering climate goals, ii) fuel poverty, iii) increasing EE & RE, iv) reducing emissions from fossil fuels, v) whole system approach to energy & vi) circular regenerative economy] this is limited to a sentence in passing. In light of the climate emergency, SoNaRR recommendations regarding energy, transport and food, and the current cost of living crisis it might be useful to include baseline information the LAs have regarding energy production and use.

partners and wider groups. We are keen to identify where the environment can play a critical role in delivering multiple benefits across the four pillars to address key issues including inequalities, climate change and those associated with transport. Wellbeing objectives might be revised to reflect changes in approaches. Chapter 4 of the FGC Report 2020 provides some useful guidance on setting good well-being objectives

We welcome reference to the Natural Capital in the

offer. We are also offering to provide training, support and guidance. The National Health and Education team have offered the following training for PSB officers and members :

- An online training webinar to support PSBs to link health, education and nature (similar to a recent training GPs and educators)
- NRW Health Impact Assessment guidance and tools to support integrated thinking about natural resources and health, e.g., training session on Wider Determinants of Health and outline of HIA with focus on environment

<p>Data: So, for energy consumption/use, there is data for Bridgend, Rhondda and Merthyr here (energy-use-in-wales-2018.pdf (gov.wales)) which may be useful. It is 2018 data, which is very much applicable. The trend is the same. There could be new sets of data published later this year.</p> <p>The following could be used as supporting info:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Table on page 11 which highlights total energy use by each LA. - Table on page 6 which highlights energy use by sector for each LA - Table 12 (graph in yellow) which shows reduction in electricity use by each LA is interesting (optional). - The graphs on page 13 on domestic and non-domestic also provides a very good picture of consumption (again this is optional). <p>For energy generation, the most recent data is 2019 (Energy generation in Wales: 2019 GOV.WALES).</p> <p>The following can be used as supporting info:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Both the table on page 10 which highlights electricity generation by RE (renewable energy) and fossil fuel for each LA + types of RE for each LA provides good picture. <p>We would highly recommend including data on fuel poverty as this is very relevant within the context of WB and energy. (Fuel poverty estimates for Wales GOV.WALES) Consultation document briefly mentions fuel poverty it but does not set out much data or trend. It is likely that communities in the PSB area are high on fuel poverty agenda. And this is likely to get worse in the coming years due to rising energy bills which should be reflected in WB assessment and plan.</p> <p>Example – Welsh Housing Conditions Survey (WHCS) 2017-18: Local area Fuel Poverty estimates modelling and results summary (gov.wales) Pg 4 highlights household in fuel poverty by LA in 2018.</p>	<p>Economic pillar. However, we believe that PSBs should recognise its role in mainstream economic theory established by the Dasgupta Review 2021. We want to work with the PSB to develop its role in economic development and also explore the development of the wellbeing economy.</p> <p>We think the PSB should ensure the PSB considers the success in the Economy in terms of the Wellbeing Economy not using GDP as a measure of success.</p>	
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Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to respond formally to the combined Bridgend and Cwm Taf Well-being Assessment. As a statutory member of the PSB we've been involved with the Well-being Assessment development and welcome the opportunity contribute to this stage. In order to provide targeted and co-ordinated support to all of our Public Services Boards, we have arranged our feedback into the following categories:

- i (i) Items which are special or significant and distinct to place
- ii (ii) Assessment and analysis of Environmental Well-being
- iii (iii) Future trends
- iv (iv) Application of the Climate Change Risk Assessment for Wales (CCRA3)
- v (v) Inequalities between communities and exposure to environmental risk

Beneath each heading we have considered our **recommendations** for the assessment, our **aspirations** for future development of the well-being plan and the NRW **contribution** to all of the above as an integral partner in the Well-being planning process.

The above categories have been drawn from Welsh Government's Statutory guidance (SPSF3) on the collective role of Public Services Boards. NRW will use these categories in combination with the framework for assessing Environmental Well-being provided by SoNaRR2020 to inform all of our consultation responses. Where applicable, we will also draw on local information and evidence gathered as part of our Area Statements. For more information on how we will use this information and that which lies behind the categories listed below to please refer to the attached briefing note: Well-being Planning Framework for Approval (Annex1).

NRW will aim to provide formal written feedback on PSB products at three separate intervals during the development of Well-being Plans. This will include this round of **Well-being Assessment consultation**, again following the development of **draft Well-being objectives**, and for one final time during **Well-being plan Consultation**.

Each stage will allow NRW to involve as wide a range of technical specialists as possible within our own organisation. The process will also provide the NRW board with a documented story of Well-being Plan development in each place. This will be invaluable to them at the end of the process when they are looking to sign off each individual Well-being Plan.

1. Items which are special or significant and distinct to place

2. Assessment and analysis of Environmental Well-being

Findings:

Developing **Meeting Expected** Greater depth

We agree in principle with the assessment and analysis of environmental well-being, however, we are keen to ensure that this data and evidence is not limited to one goal of the WBFG Act but is used to make links between the natural environment and all measures of wellbeing used.

We believe the value of this Assessment goes beyond the Well-being Assessment and can be used for plans such as Strategic and Local Development Plans and Area Statements.

Recommendations	Aspirations	NRW Contributions
<p><i>It is recommended that the following edits be made to the Well-being Assessment prior to publication...</i></p> <p>Reference is made to climate change however we'd expect to see reference to WG declaration of Climate and Nature Emergencies, and all three councils ambitions to be Net Zero (2050 or 2030).</p> <p>As a complimentary product from sister legislation (Environment (Wales) Act 2016), we would expect to see much more reference made to the South Central Wales Area Statement. It covers all of the topics covered in the Environment pillar and health. The Area Statement should be referenced and linked, particularly where text is taken from the Area Statement. The issues and direction as set out in the Area Statement would support the thinking around the opportunity sections</p>	<p>Since the last round of well-being planning, there has been a significant shift in public discussion and understanding the connections between all four pillars of well-being. Accompanying this is an emerging appreciation of the need for co-ordinated public sector responses. The overwhelming message from SoNaRR is that societal transformation is needed in the Food, Energy and Mobility systems.</p> <p>As we begin Well-being Plan development, we are keen to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio-economic data is incorporated into the understanding of what environmental well-being means. • The concept of environmental well-being includes data and evidence from the social, economic, and cultural well-being dimensions. • The connections between all four dimensions of well-being are being made apparent. • Nature and Climate emergencies are at the forefront of decision making <p>It is important to identify how collaborative public sector working can drive transformation and identify what levers we have locally that can help shape this transformation.</p>	<p>We would welcome the opportunity to explore how the Well-being Plan can shape transformation in the transport system, energy and food and clearly align to the four aims of SMNR from SoNaRR 2020.</p>

throughout the environmental and Health chapters.		
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3. Future Trends

<p>Findings:</p> <p>Developing Meeting Expected Greater depth</p> <p>We consider this area as developing. Whilst some reference has been made throughout the document, we would like to see more prominence made to key issues such as flooding, future climate change scenarios particularly in light of inequalities and impacts on health and wellbeing. We know that areas of high deprivation are far more inclined to suffer from the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>We thought the structure of the economics pillar worked well, with a clear summary of conclusions and recommendations. If time allows, replicating this format for the other pillars would be recommended and provide a clear integrated direction to inform the wellbeing plan.</p>		
Recommendations	Aspirations	NRW Contributions
<p>It is recommended that the following edits be made to the Well-being Assessment prior to publication.</p> <p>From an environmental perspective, it is important that consideration of future trends continues into Well-being Plan development and that positive and negative impacts are considered between the four pillars of wellbeing, 7 goals of WbFG Act and the climate and nature emergencies.</p> <p>Link/reference with the CCR Regional Strategy (Regional energy strategy: Cardiff capital region GOV. WALES). This would be a high-level framework that sits alongside WB assessments as the LAs develop their local area energy planning.</p>	<p>We will continue working with the PSB to build on the work of the Well-being Assessment to deliver the Wellbeing Plan. Future recovery from the pandemic and responding to climate change, the Well-being Plan should aspire to ensure a green and just recovery.</p> <p>Thus, ensuring that the needs of vulnerable groups (often least likely to be part of the decision making and planning process) are met whilst addressing the climate and nature emergencies.</p> <p>To do this NRW encourage the PSB to use wellbeing planning to build on the evidence of the assessment to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure regional moves to change the energy infrastructure take account of local issues such as fuel poverty and ensuring a just and green transition to decarbonisation. The Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP) will be key in delivering the relevant energy strategies and plan and should be incorporated as a delivery mechanism for the Well-being Plan. ensure a modal shift in transport, away from our reliance on high 	<p>NRW would like to offer to run a ‘Three Horizons’ workshop, to help support the incorporation of future trends into the next phase of well-being planning.</p>

<p>The Regional Strategy also provides scenario modelling which is very relevant for the WB Plans within the context of energy.</p> <p>It is important the key energy issues are reflected in WB Assessment and Plan so it could sit alongside the Regional Strategies as main framework in delivering The Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP) which would be key in addressing many wellbeing issues.</p>	<p>polluting private transport to an integrated system of both active and sustainable public transport solutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • move away from viewing society and the economy as if they were separate from the environment, putting the climate and nature NRW would like to offer to facilitate a ‘Three Horizons’ workshop during the development of response analysis, to help support the incorporation of future trends into the next phase of well-being planning. emergencies at the forefront of decision making for future generations <p><u>Recommend the use of:</u></p> <p>The WG Go-Science UK trend deck for evidence of the use of multiple relevant futures resources. The range of futures tools and techniques available in the UK Governments Futures Toolkit (such as Three Horizon Workshop).</p> <p>We encourage the PSB to recognise and acknowledge that our knowledge is uncertain. We are encouraging all our PSB partners to start broad collaborative discussions around the confidence and levels of agreement in the data and evidence sources used to support each conclusion/recommendation. This is not to be considered an exercise in consensus building per se, more an exploration of the shared and contested values that undoubtedly exist across the spectrum of work the WBA covers.</p>	
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4. Application of the Climate Change Risk Assessment for Wales (CCRA3)

Findings:

Developing Meeting Expected Greater depth

Climate change, and the urgency of the climate emergency and its impact on future generations didn't get the prominence we might have expected.

The consultation briefly captures the high-level messages on energy for the three LAs which is the i) importance of energy in delivering climate goals, ii) fuel poverty, iii) increasing EE & RE, iv) reducing emissions from fossil fuels, v) whole system approach to energy & vi) circular regenerative economy.

Recommendations	Aspirations	NRW Contributions
<p>Reference to the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment produced in 2017 there is an updated version in 2021 that should be referenced.</p> <p>Risks have changed during this time period, and many have increased in urgency.</p> <p>While the report does consider climate change frequently throughout, addressing some of the highest CCRA3 risks might broaden the discussion to incorporate other issues that the area is likely to face in the future (e.g., heat stress in buildings, which might be a consideration in the section on Health) to further integrate consideration of climate change into all areas of the assessment.</p> <p>Regarding wildfires, it is great to see this mentioned here. Reference could be made to the research report on wildfire that fed into CCRA3 (here) as this details the potential increases in flammable material that we might observe as the temperatures rise, and is a useful metric for assessing future risk or</p>	<p>In the next stages of Well-being Plan development, we would like the PSB to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying any place specific climate risks and opportunities. Prioritise relevant places that require urgent action informed by the CCRA3 risk classification (i.e., more action needed/further investigation/sustain current action). <p>Much like COVID19 has been cited for the short-term impact to the population and wellbeing we would expect future long-term impacts of climate change to be given the same prominence in the Wellbeing Plan.</p>	

<p>developing adaptation actions. This could be added, for example, in the section on page 141 that starts: Management of land so that material is not as freely available as a fuel source or as a run-off would be a preventative measure as well as supporting habitat improvement and biodiversity.</p> <p>Great to see reference to IPCC AR6, and other sources of modelling/climate projections (e.g.) - might also be worth touching on the most updated Met Office UKCP18 projections too</p>		
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5. Inequalities between communities and exposure to environmental risk

Findings:		
Developing	Meeting Expected	Greater depth
<p>Whilst the assessment identifies specific communities, which are more vulnerable to environmental risks and hazards, such as flood risk, poor air quality, noise pollution and water quality it fails to clearly identify the links between environmental and socio-economic inequalities between and within communities.</p>		
Recommendations	Aspirations	NRW Contributions
<p>It is recommended that the following edits be made to the Well-being Assessment prior to publication...</p> <p>There is no reference to the health effects of environmental risk and that areas of high deprivation are far more inclined to suffer from the impacts of climate change – this is not acknowledged in this assessment.</p> <p>The assessment evidence does provide an understanding and analysis of the socio-economic demographics of the communities within the PSB area through use of WIMD.</p> <p>Opportunity here to highlight communities where there are socio-economic inequalities between communities which are also at greater exposure to environmental risk.</p>	<p>As we move towards developing Well-being Plan and objectives, together with PSB partners, we are keen to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore and identify root causes of the inequalities. • Assess and evidence whether current policy and practice is sufficient to manage exposure to multiple and cumulative risks to communities. • Identify and prioritise the opportunities for primary prevention interventions – for example, those policies that cover transport (inc. active travel); energy; food; access and recreation; countryside, coastal and greenspace management (inc. blue space); education, skills, and volunteering; housing and woodland cover. <p>The aim is to identify the multiple benefits of primary prevention interventions for the environment and people.</p>	<p>NRW's National Health and Education team have offered the following training for PSB officers and members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An online training webinar to support PSBs to link health, education and nature (similar to a recent training session with GPs or our Naturally Happy and Healthy Webinar) • NRW Health Impact Assessment guidance and tools to support integrated thinking about natural resources and health, e.g., training session on Wider Determinants of Health and outline of HIA with focus on environment

