

WG PTN Board Paper 001

Board Paper to note



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Minutes of the Board Meeting, 13 March 2020

Present:

Shan Morgan
Ellen Donovan
Jeff Farrar
Gareth Lynn
Andrew Goodall
Tracey Burke
Andrew Slade
Des Clifford
Peter Kennedy
Natalie Pearson
Gawain Evans
David Richards
Andrew Jeffrey
Helen Lentle
Charlotte Cosserat

Apologies:

Ann Keane

In attendance:

Nicola Edwards
Lucie Griffiths
Steven Marshall
Angharad Reakes

Secretariat:

Charmain Watts

WG PTN Board Paper 001

1. Welcome

- 1.1 The Permanent Secretary welcomed all attendees to the Welsh Government Board.

2. Current Issues

- 2.1 The Permanent Secretary advised the Board that Ann Keane had resigned as Non-Executive Director (NED). The Board was sorry to see Ann leave and thanked Ann for all of her work as a Board NED.
- 2.2 The Permanent Secretary asked whether Gareth Lynn would take on the role of ARAC Chair in the interim. Gareth was content to do so.
- 2.3 The Permanent Secretary and Andrew Goodall provided an update on Covid-19. A series of weekly meetings have been set up that will allow the Permanent Secretary to monitor and lead the Welsh Government response to the Coronavirus – Covid -19.
- 2.4 Andrew advised that an action plan had been issued this week. The Director Generals provided an update of the impact in their areas and Board agreed that the Welsh Government's risk appetite has increased because of Covid-19.
- 2.5 The Permanent Secretary highlighted the importance of recording decisions and the assumptions those decisions are based on. The Board also discussed guidance for Arm's Length Bodies.

ACTION 1: David Richards and Peter Kennedy to draft a note for Arms Lengths Bodies.

ACTION 2: All to record decisions and assumptions on work around Covid-19

3. Future Vision for Childcare.

- 3.1 Nicola Edwards and Lucie Griffiths attended to provide information on the Future Vision for Childcare which will inform a NED Challenge Session.

WG PTN Board Paper 001

3.2 Nicola advised the Board of the potential options for expansion of the Childcare Offer, our future vision for the provision of childcare in Wales, and the childcare system we want in place in 10 years' time. She also explained the need for a clear longer term plan for childcare services for children and families across Wales.

3.3 The Board welcomed the update and asked the team to draft an additional summary paper that included, a table of key actions and statistics around the approach taken by other countries including cost prior to the challenge session. The Board also discussed the timing of the challenge session and noted that a session on Tuesday was too early and agreed to hold a session later on in the year.

ACTION 3: An additional summary paper to be drafted that included, a table of key actions and statistics around the approach taken by other countries including cost prior the challenge session.

ACTION 4: Review the date for the challenge session on the childcare offer and move to later in the year.

4. Update on the Performance Framework for the Welsh Government

4.1 Steven Marshall and Angharad Reakes provided an update on the KPI work, Board discussion focused on:

4.2 Where we are now with developing the Performance Framework

- Responsibility for implementing the Performance Framework has transferred to Knowledge and Analytical Services, Board will have oversight of the Performance Framework. The final themes for the framework have been agreed through discussion with the Board, other senior managers internally and researchers at InCiSe.

4.3 How will the Performance Framework work in practice.

- The Welsh Government Performance Framework has a number of themes which makes it broad, wide-ranging and thorough. The Performance Framework will run on a rolling annual cycle. Reporting will consist of high level performance ratings and narrative providing context

WG PTN Board Paper 001

and interpretation for all available indicators in association with the relevant business owners.

4.4 Plans for reporting on the Performance Framework

- The team are in discussions with the business owners about what type of information is already collected and what the indicators could be. It is proposed that the Board is provided with the recommended set of indicators for discussion at its next meeting in April. The Board will also receive the baseline data for the indicators where it is available.

4.5 The Board welcomed the paper and the direction of travel of this work and the Permanent Secretary thanked Jeff Farrar and the team for all of their efforts in moving this work forward to the next level.

5. WFG act implementation

5.1 Amelia John and Andrew Charles provided information on the approach to delivering on the Well-being of Future Generations (WFG) Act and embedding the five ways of working within Welsh Government; they also provided an overview on progress and update on policy capability.

5.2 Amelia provided a presentation which focused on:

- Key Functions of the Act
- Future Generations Commissioner and AGW feedback
- Challenges and Opportunities
- Policy Capability Framework
- Architecture of the Act including information on:
 - Sustainable Development Goals
 - Well-being Goals for Wales
 - Indicators and milestones
 - Objectives
 - Ways of working sustainably
 - Who it applies to

5.3 Amelia also advised that in late April, the Future Generations Commissioner will publish the first statutory Future Generations Report for Wales, and the Auditor General Wales will publish his report on the examinations of all listed

WG PTN Board Paper 001

bodies, including Welsh Government. Both reports will be laid before the Senedd.

- 5.4** Amelia explained that the proposed approach to integrated policy-making is framed by the WFG Act and represents one of the significant actions that are being taken to embed the legislation. This provides the foundation for developing policies in a more considered way that takes greater advantage of cross-portfolio solutions and which builds in longer-term and preventative thinking, collaboration, involvement and integration.
- 5.5** This approach should support consideration of both new and existing policies through a different lens and stimulate a discussion with Ministers, colleagues across Welsh Government and external stakeholders to ensure we achieve social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being.
- 5.6** The Board recognised the importance of delivering this work and supported the approach to embed the Well-being of Future Generations Act within Welsh Government, including the Policy Profession work.

6. Finance Report

- 6.1** Gawain Evans presented a report which covers the period 1 April to 31 January 2020 (month 10). It includes forecast outturn figures set against the 2019-20 budget, which is the First Supplementary Budget 2019-20 which was approved by the Assembly on 4 February.
- 6.2** Further discussions largely focused on:
- Revenue forecast
 - Capital forecast
 - Position of current reserves
 - Current DEL budget
 - Unallocated DEL reserves

7. Permanent Secretary's Items

- 7.1** The Permanent Secretary updated the Board on the work around the Internal Use of the Welsh Language Strategy which had received positive comments from the First Minister and Minister for International Relations and the Welsh

WG PTN Board Paper 001

Language. She advised that work had progressed to the next level and the strategy would be launched at the end of March. The Board welcomed this.

8. Remuneration Committee

8.1 Jeff Farrar updated the Board on the last Remuneration Committee, he advised that discussion had mainly focused on succession planning and a good discussion was held on immediate resource pressures and long term thinking. The Board asked if a forward look could be developed for future Remuneration Committees.

ACTION 5: Jeff Farrar, Peter Kennedy and Natalie Pearson to develop a forward look for future Remuneration Committee.

Actions arising at Board meeting

ACTION	LEAD OFFICER	LATEST POSITION
ACTION 1: David Richards and Peter Kennedy to draft a note for Arms Lengths Bodies.	David Richards	Complete
ACTION 2: All to record decisions and assumptions on work around Covid-19	All	On-going
ACTION 3: An additional summary paper to be drafted that included, a table of key actions and statistics around the approach taken by other countries including cost prior the challenge session.	Nicola Edwards	On-going
ACTION 4: Review the date for the challenge session on the childcare offer and move to later in the year.	Gareth Lynn/ Nicola Edwards	On-going
ACTION 5: Jeff Farrar, Peter Kennedy and Natalie Pearson to develop a forward look for future Remuneration Committee.	Jeff Farrar, Peter Kennedy and	On-going

WG PTN Board Paper 001

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