

**Cwm Taf Morgannwg**

**Public Services Board**

**Joint Overview and Scrutiny**  
**Committee**

**Annual Report**  
**2024/2025**



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# Foreword

I was extremely honoured to have been appointed as Chair of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) for the 2024-2025 Municipal Year with dedicated support from County Borough Councillor Huw David (Bridgend) as Vice Chair.

As I set out in my Chair's statement, I am deeply committed to the success of our Cwm Taf Morgannwg communities and believe that my experience and skills position me to lead the JOSC effectively and make a significant contribution to the committee's work. I believe that key to supporting the aims and priorities of the CTM PSB JOSC is the commitment to act as a 'critical friend' to the Board, ensuring that our scrutiny is both rigorous and constructive.

The annual report sets out the work we have undertaken during the 2024-2025 Municipal year, across four meetings and a training session on the Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Sustainable Development Principle. The latter laid the foundations and cemented our understanding of the Act and the relationship of the JOSC with the PSB to prepare us for the year ahead.

We welcomed a new Chair of the PSB, Mr Paul Mee this municipal year, who attended a meeting of the JOSC to enlighten the Committee on the current and future work streams of the CTM PSB. We value this close communication and open dialogue between the JOSC and PSB which enables the JOSC to identify relevant work and pre scrutiny items to enable the JOSC to make good progress and ultimately demonstrate tangible outcomes and recommendations.

Following on from the pre scrutiny work that the JOSC undertook in respect of developing a climate change risk assessment for Cwm Taf Morgannwg, the JOSC has continued to be updated on progress as to how the PSB will respond to the complex range of issues and use the risk assessment to drive action on climate risk in Cwm Taf Morgannwg. More of this is set out in the annual report itself.

I am pleased with our progress this year, as we amended our terms of reference to reflect that the JOSC will undertake scrutiny on the activity of both the regional Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and the Partnership Board (RP). This means that the JOSC has the responsibility of scrutinising the work of these two intrinsic areas which will maximise the collaboration between the regional Public Services Board, Community Safety Partnership, Regional Partnership and Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

I would like to thank all members of the PSB JOSC, my Vice Chair, Councillor Huw David, Co-opted Members and Citizen Representatives of the Committee for their dedication and professionalism.

**Councillor G Hughes (Chair)**



# Membership of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee (JOSC)

## Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Members



Cllr  
Gareth  
Hughes  
(Chair)



Cllr Jill  
Bonetto



Cllr Ross  
Williams



Cllr Barry  
Stephens



Cllr Sera  
Evans



Cllr Sheryl  
Evans  
Substitute  
Member

## Bridgend County Borough Council Members



Cllr Huw  
David



Cllr Alex  
Williams



Cllr Simon  
Griffiths



Cllr Martin  
Hughes



Cllr Tim  
Thomas



Cllr Freya  
Bletsoe  
Substitute  
Member

## Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Member



Cllr Julia  
Jenkins



Cllr Geraint  
Thomas



Cllr David  
Hughes

## Co-opted Members

**Ms Rachel Rowlands**

**Mr Andrew Robinson**

**Ms Anita Lewis**

**Mr Michael J Maguire**

**Ms Cheryl Rowlands**

**Local Health Board**

**Natural Resources Wales**

**RCT Citizen Representative**

**MT Citizen Representative**

**BCBC Citizen Representative**

# **The Role of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 gives a legally binding common purpose to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of their area by contributing to the achievement of the 7 national well-being goals. The Well-being of Future Generations Act (the Act) puts a well-being duty on specified public bodies including local authorities, local health boards, fire and rescue services and Natural Resources Wales to act jointly via PSBs.

PSBs are required to:

- assess the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in their areas (the Well-being Assessment);
- use that assessment to set local well-being objectives (the Well-being Plan);
- act together to meet those objectives.

As part of the statutory duties placed on Public Services Boards under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WBFG Act), and as set out in Welsh Government's Statutory Guidance for PSBs in Wales, Local Authorities must create a designated scrutiny committee to scrutinise the work of the PSB, to ensure democratic accountability. In Cwm Taf Morgannwg, the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, consisting of Elected Members and co-opted non-political members from RCT, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend local authorities was created in May 2023 to reflect the regional footprint of the newly merged Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board.

The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee comprises of 5 Elected Members from each of the three Local Authorities' Overview and Scrutiny Committees designated to scrutinise the work of the PSB as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015 and based on the political balance of each of those Committees, as far as practical.

## **FUNCTIONS OF THE CWM TAF MORGANNWG PSB JOSOC**

The overall aim of the JOSOC is to scrutinise the overall effectiveness of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board. The core statutory functions of the JOSOC are:-

- To carry out functions in relation to the Board that are imposed on it by the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, including in particular as a statutory consultee upon the:
  - PSB Well-being Assessment;
  - PSB Well-being Plan, and;
  - To receive an Annual Report detailing the progress made towards meeting local Well-being objectives in the Well-being Plan

- To review or scrutinise the decisions made or actions taken by the Board;
- To review or scrutinise the Board's governance arrangements;
- To make reports or recommendations to the Board regarding its functions or governance arrangements;
- To consider matters relating to the Board as the Welsh Ministers may refer to it and report to the Welsh Ministers accordingly; and
- In addition to these functions the JOSC's Lines of Inquiry can include (but not be limited to), the following:
  - The effectiveness of the Wellbeing Assessment;
  - The effectiveness of the Wellbeing Plan;
  - The effectiveness of performance measurement arrangements;
  - The level of commitment from individual partners to the work of the Public Services Board;
  - The effectiveness of the Public Services Board in communicating its work, objectives and outcomes to its stakeholders; and,
  - The effectiveness of the Public Services Board in addressing the issue of pooled funding to tackle priorities.

## Governance

At the beginning of the year, the Committee appointed its Chair, Councillor G Hughes (RCTCBC) and Vice Chair, Councillor H David (BCBC) for the 2024-2025 Municipal Year. Both Members have accumulated a great deal of experience across a number of different committees including an understanding of the scrutiny process in their respective local authorities and were therefore able to bring a wealth of knowledge and an independent approach to their roles.

In addition to the Local Authority County Borough Councillors, the JOSC membership consists of co-opted members and citizen representatives from each of the three local authorities of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Merthyr Tydfil CBC and Bridgend CBC who bring invaluable knowledge and in the case of the citizen representatives an inquiring approach based on a wealth of life skills. This year the JOSC welcomed Ms Rachel Rowlands as the new Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board representative. As the Municipal Year came to an end the Bridgend CBC citizen representative Ms Cheryll Board announced her departure from the role. Her commitment to the JOSC for a number of years was acknowledged by the Chair of the JOSC at the meeting in May 2025.

The Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB also welcomed its new Chair, Mr Paul Mee (RCTCBC) in place of Mr Mark Brace (who served as Chair of the Bridgend PSB, Cwm Taf PSB and the merged Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB). The PSB Chair has already provided a commitment to continue the regular engagement between the PSB and JOSC by his attendance to the meeting of the JOSC in May 2025. The PSB Chair provided an update to the JOSC on the PSB developments such as the South-East Wales PSB Network and specific areas identified to strengthen the role of the PSB to include People and Culture, Governance, Communities and Involvement, Process and Mechanisms. The PSB Chair set out the PSB priorities for the forthcoming year such as the Active Travel Charter, the Workforce Well-being Sub-Group, the Climate Change Risk Assessment and the Children and Young People regional engagement Sub-Group.

The delivery of the PSB's draft annual report for the 2024-2025 Municipal Year to the JOSC for pre scrutiny strengthened the engagement of Committee Members to hold the PSB to account as set out in its terms of reference. Members welcomed the annual report and recommended some improvements to its presentation for the benefit of the residents of Cwm Taf Morgannwg through the provision of an easy read summary and the inclusion of infographics to add value and enhance the report.

Previously the terms of reference set out that the membership of the JOSC was determined by each local authority in accordance with its own arrangements **from within each Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee** with the term of office of the nominated Elected Members being a matter for each nominating local authority. At its meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025, Members were asked to consider proposals



to agree that the membership of the JOSC is not restricted to or nominated **exclusively** from within each Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The purpose of the proposal was to allow each local authority greater flexibility in determining its nominations and offer more opportunity for engagement to other non-executive members. Members unanimously agreed to the proposal which will allow for the most effective approach to scrutiny of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB. The terms of reference were subsequently revised to reflect the proposal in addition to the JOSC's commitment to reviewing its terms of reference regularly to ensure they are fit for purpose.

# Training & Knowledge

The JOSC consists of a membership that is trained to fulfil its role in accordance with its terms of reference and includes Members and co-opted members that provide a level of expertise and knowledge. To further enhance this, on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024, further to a request, all Members of the PSB JOSC were provided with the opportunity to undertake a training session on the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the function of the PSBs to support their understanding of the seven Well-being Goals and the 'Five Ways of Working', the long-term impact of decisions within Cwm Taf Morgannwg, and how to tackle persistent issues such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change, through the lens of the Act.

As many Members were new to the PSB JOSC this municipal year, the training provided good preparation for the year ahead of not only the Well-being of Future Generations Act but also of the role, responsibilities and priorities of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB and specifically its relationship with the PSB JOSC. Members gained an understanding of the CTM PSB, with particular attention to the role of the Board, the Well-being Plan, its current work plans and finally, what makes effective partnership scrutiny. The training session also served to explain the PSB commitments and how these are embedded in the work of the PSB as follows:

- Involvement and citizen voice
- Anchor institutions, local delivery, campaigning nationally
- Regional governance
- Improving intelligence
- Systems thinking, outcomes focused

Members of the JOSC are able to request further training as and when required through a request to the Chair or via the supporting Scrutiny Officers to ensure they feel comfortable and confident about their knowledge base.

# PSB JOSC Work Plan Objectives

The Welsh Government Guidance to PSBs on the role of scrutiny states that the scrutiny function of Public Services Boards is encouraged to be 'a critical friend with positive intent'. Furthermore, it outlines that scrutiny practitioners act as advocates for the success of joint working. A crucial component to evidence the success of the JOSC is through the production of an annual report to demonstrate the work undertaken throughout the year and how successfully the JOSC has scrutinised the well-being objectives.

## JOSC Annual Report 2023/24

At its first meeting on the [4<sup>th</sup> September 2024](#) the JOSC received its draft Annual report, which highlighted the work undertaken by the Joint Committee during the Municipal Year 2023/24. It is a requirement of the JOSC to produce an annual report which, once endorsed is also presented to the next appropriate meeting of the CTM PSB. The JOSC annual report is produced annually on how the committee has complied with its terms of reference, discharged its responsibilities, and includes an overview of its performance. The report is available to the public and it is published on the website of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, who undertake the administration of the JOSC and it is also published to the PSB website.

The PSB JOSC annual report for the 2023/24 municipal year reflected the new arrangements following the transition to a single Public Services Board (PSB) for Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) and the subsequent changes to the scrutiny arrangements. The JOSC agreed that the draft annual report demonstrated the progress of the scrutiny function of the JOSC over the past year and how these arrangements have been effectively embedded and also served to demonstrate how the JOSC has supported the priorities and work of the PSB.

## JOSC Work Programme 2024/25

This year the JOSC aligned its forward work programme with that of the PSB in order for it to be able to be aware of the Board's priorities and planned policies, legislation and projects for the forthcoming year. In September 2024 both work programmes were published with the former available for the JOSC to review and agree.

The JOSC was asked to identify any pre-scrutiny of key decisions proposed by the PSB over the next Municipal Year (in addition to scrutiny of the CSP and the RPB) and any matters of strategic significance to the PSB, partners and stakeholders. Members were also asked to suggest any work programme topics that fall within the remit of the JOSC and to identify any training needs (The request for a training session on the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the function of the PSBs was undertaken in November 2024).

The work programme was agreed subject to the JOSC undertaking scrutiny of the Climate Change Risk Assessment during the 2024/25 municipal year.

### **Progress made in delivering against the 2024/25 Work Plan**

#### **Community Safety Partnership (CSP)**

During the 2023/24 municipal year, the JOSC received an update on the merger of the Community Safety Partnerships in Cwm Taf Morgannwg with a view to undertaking pre-scrutiny on the proposals made by the task and finish group in readiness for the merged Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The JOSC supported the creation of the regional Community Safety Partnership based on the review of CSP arrangements.

A 'shadow board' was initially formed to manage the transition to one strategic Cwm Taf Morgannwg Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership (CTMCSP) with the Board formally coming together for the first time in July 2024. It has since met quarterly including workshops to consider priority areas and delivery mechanisms. The Board reports to the CTM PSB.

The proposals also recommended that appropriate local arrangements should be in place to scrutinise regional activity, with scrutiny of the regional Community Safety Partnership to be undertaken by the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the regional Public Services Board (JOSC). It would also be necessary for the JOSC to reflect these changes in its own terms of reference, to demonstrate the responsibility of scrutinising the activities of the regional Community Safety Partnership as directed by the PSB. As with the merger of the PSBs in 2023, it was equally important that the scrutiny arrangements adapted to the proposal that it undertakes scrutiny of the CSP.

The proposal came before the JOSC at its meeting held on the [4<sup>th</sup> September 2024](#) to consider the additional proposals which reflect the scrutiny arrangements of the regional Community Safety Partnership (CSP) based on the review of CSP arrangements. Members agreed the recommendation to accept the proposal whilst noting that the existing arrangements within each Local Authority regarding their Crime & Disorder Committees (Under Sections 19 & 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006) would continue to scrutinise local activity and impact.

CSP priorities were determined following consideration of the challenges currently being faced by services and communities and where the greatest impact could be made and how to make best use of resources. The CSP agreed the focus for the Board would be Safe Spaces, Preventing Violent Crime, and Promoting Cohesive Communities. More specifically, these headlines featured in the update delivered to the JOSC on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024. The focus for the CSP will be to progress these priority areas whilst acknowledging the cross-cutting theme of improving how communities are engaged.

As the terms of reference have now been updated, the Regional Community Safety Partnership reporting will feature as a key component of the JOSC forward workplan to ensure it is a priority and the CSP priorities are scrutinised.

### **Regional Partnership (RP)**

The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Partnership (RP) is one of seven RPs in Wales that bring together a range of partners from across health, social care, third sector, housing and education to drive forward integration ambitions to meet the health and social care needs of our population.

In order to support the RP to carry out its business efficiently and effectively, in line with its identified core values and enhance its commitment to providing the best services to people at the right time and place, it proposed that the JOSC scrutinise its work to provide assurance that the partnership continues to provide value for money and in the interests of good governance.

The recommendation for scrutiny to be undertaken by the JOSC was agreed at its meeting on the [17th December 2024](#) with the requirement to update its terms of reference to demonstrate the additional role of scrutinising the activities of the Regional Partnership (much like that of the CSP). To strengthen the recommendation and to provide an overview of the work of the RP, the JOSC also received the RB 2023-2024 Annual Report and presentation from the Head of the Regional Commissioning Unit which set out the role of the Regional Partnership, its engagement and communication strategy and key priorities.

Inclusion of the additional responsibility within its terms of reference will enable the JOSC to target and scrutinise a range of topic areas and contribute to the robustness of the RP's governance and identify recommendations that will support the effective discharge of its own terms of reference.

### **Climate Change Risk Assessment**

During the 2023-2024 Municipal Year the JOSC undertook pre scrutiny of the work of the PSB in respect of developing a climate change risk assessment for Cwm Taf Morgannwg. This work focused on the collaboration and involvement 'Ways of Working' as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015). Its comments and feedback were noted by the PSB particularly the JOSC's proposal to expand the consultation and engagement to include as much perspective as possible.

This Municipal Year, the JOSC received an update on the Climate Change Risk Assessment for Cwm Taf Morgannwg to acknowledge the progress made and also to understand the challenges ahead for the PSB to drive action on climate risk in

Cwm Taf Morgannwg.

The Climate Change Risk Assessment report set out the key issues associated with managing each of the eleven risks on a regional Cwm Taf Morgannwg approach and the benefits that undertaking further work on each area can bring from action in the coming five years. The report also set out focus on the issues for the PSB and CTM in collectively responding to climate risk and made recommendations for action for 2025-2030 on governance and integration of climate risk within service and partnership planning.

The Climate Change Risk Assessment report and update generated discussion around the Cwm Taf landscape which typically makes it more vulnerable and poses an instrumental risk, as evidenced with the recent flooding and wildfires across the Cwm Taf communities. Members sought clarification on how the eleven priorities will be translated to be able to deliver and address such issues and risks and how collaboration and resources amongst partner organisations can be improved across Cwm Taf Morgannwg to be able to respond to the risks. This was outlined in the next steps for the PSB including agreeing a plan on how it will deliver on the eleven priorities as well as raising awareness amongst partners both regionally and nationally. As a PSB priority and an area identified for further scrutiny, the JOSC recommended that it receives further updates in respect of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Climate Change Risk Assessment as it progresses and as the PSB engages with community groups on the significant programme of work.

# ***Looking Ahead....***

With the establishment of the core principles in the first year of the regional arrangements, the JOSC has since agreed the proposal to undertake scrutiny of the regional Community Safety Partnership (CSP), following the review and subsequent establishment of a single CSP for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region. Likewise, the JOSC also agreed to undertake scrutiny of the Regional Partnership (RP). This early work has laid the foundations for the JOSC to scrutinise the newly formed CTM Community Safety Partnership and the existing CTM Regional Partnership into the next municipal year. Reflecting these work streams in the terms of reference will also establish the role of scrutiny.

The JOSC will continue to hold the PSB to account to ensure transparency and effectiveness in its governance. By strengthening our existing, good working relationship, we can work towards the delivery of shared outcomes and by continuing to work collectively to establish a clear direction for scrutiny of the PSB.

I would like to pay thanks to all those who have been involved with our work over the past year; to all who have given their time to present and bring reports to our meetings for us to scrutinise.

Diolch

**Councillor G Hughes (Chair)**