

Meeting of:	Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	Tuesday, 11 June 2024
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Healthy Living and Social Care
Report Title:	Food Vale, the Vale of Glamorgan's Sustainable Food Partnership
Purpose of Report:	To present an overview of the work of Food Vale across the Vale of Glamorgan as part of the rolling programme of providing Committees with insights into the work of the Public Services Board.
Report Owner:	Tom Bowring, Director of Corporate Resources
Responsible Officer:	Helen Moses, Operational Manager - Corporate Strategy and Insight
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	No specific Ward Member consultation has been undertaken
Policy Framework:	The Public Services Board Well-being Plan 2023-28 was approved by Council in April 2023
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Public Services Board (PSB) launched its first Well-being Plan on 22nd May 2018. It's second Well-being Plan was launched at an event on the 15th June 2023. Since its launch partners have been working to progress the Well-being Objectives set out in the Plan and the actions aligned to these Objectives. Many of the Objectives, actions and key priority workstreams are aligned to the work carried out by Food Vale. • Food Vale, which is the sustainable food partnership for the Vale of Glamorgan, are working to develop a new local Food Strategy for the Vale of Glamorgan. This Strategy will cover the period 2024-2030 and will encompass both short and long term actions to guide action on a wide range of topics to build a healthy and sustainable local food system. • The work of the PSB is reported to the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee. The Committee have requested the work of the PSB is also reported to other Committees whose remits align to elements of its work to broaden the understanding of the PSB's work amongst a wider range of elected Members. 	

Recommendations

1. That Members note the work of Food Vale and the progress partners are making in developing the new local Food Strategy and provide comments via the Director of Corporate Resources to the PSB.
2. That Members consider if they would like to receive further updates on the work of Food Vale during the year in addition to the progress reported as part of the PSB Annual Report, reported to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. To enable Members to consider the work of Food Vale and opportunities to engage with the development of the new local Food Strategy and feedback any comments to the PSB.
2. To enable Members to be updated on the work of Food Vale in a manner that best satisfies the needs of the Committee.

1. Background

The Public Services Board (PSB)

- 1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 formally established Public Services Boards (PSBs) in each local authority area in Wales. 'Our Vale' is the Vale PSB and in accordance with the Act must contribute to the achievement of the national well-being goals as set out in the legislation. The PSB must do this by:
 - Assessing the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in the local area.
 - Setting local objectives that are designed to maximise the PSB's contribution within the area to achieving the national well-being goals.
 - Taking all reasonable steps to meet these objectives i.e. through a Well-being Plan which must be informed by the Well-being Assessment.
- 1.2 Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee is the designated committee for scrutinising the work of the PSB.
- 1.3 The PSB set four Well-being Objectives which provided the framework for its first Well-being Plan covering 2018-23. It's second Well-being Plan set out three Well-being Objectives for 2023 – 2028. There are several short and long-term actions which have been taken forward in an integrated way to achieve the three Objectives and to deliver the PSB's 2050 vision.
- 1.4 The PSB's three Well-being Objectives in the 2023-28 Well-being Plan are:
 - **A more resilient and greener Vale** - by understanding and making the changes necessary as individuals, communities and organisations in response to the climate and nature emergencies.

- **A more active and healthier Vale** - by encouraging and enabling people of all ages to be more active and to promote the benefits of embracing a healthier lifestyle.
 - **A more equitable and connected Vale** - by tackling the inequities that exist across the Vale, engaging with our communities and providing better opportunities and support to make a lasting difference.
- 1.5** There is a wide range of work detailed in the 2023-28 Well-being Plan that will contribute to the delivery of the three Objectives and the PSB has identified three priority workstreams where specific and additional shared focus is needed:
1. Responding to the climate and nature emergencies
 2. Working with people who live in our communities that experience higher levels of deprivation
 3. Becoming an Age Friendly Vale
- 1.6** The Welsh Government's statutory guidance Shared Purpose: Shared Future, sets out that PSBs must prepare and publish a progress report on the work undertaken towards meeting the Well-being Objectives on an annual basis. The PSB's Annual [Reports](#) set out the progress made over the year and are scrutinised by the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee.

Food Vale

- 1.7** Food Vale is the Vale of Glamorgan's Sustainable Food Partnership. The partnership is hosted within the Public Health Team at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (UHB). Food Vale was established in 2016 when representatives from key organisations came together to form a Steering Group to give strategic guidance on building a healthy and sustainable local food system in the Vale. Members of the Steering Group include representatives from Vale of Glamorgan Council, Natural Resources Wales, Cardiff and Vale UHB Dietetics, Cywain, FareShare Cymru, Big Fresh Catering, Glamorgan Smallholders, Glamorgan Voluntary Services, Creative Communities and Newydd Housing Association. Food Vale is embedded within the Public Health Team's [Move More Eat Well](#) plan.
- 1.8** In 2020 Food Vale developed the Food Vale Charter which shares a collective vision for the future of food in the Vale and sets out the key priority areas for a good food movement. These are:
- A good meal for everyone, everyday
 - Thriving local food businesses which are supported and valued
 - Think global, eat local
- 1.9** In 2020 Food Vale became a member of the Sustainable Food Places programme led by Soil Association, Sustain and Food Matters. Sustainable Food Places is a UK programme that brings together food partnerships taking a place-based, systems approach to healthy and sustainable food. A dedicated Food Vale Coordinator was recruited to drive forward progress.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 The Corporate Performance and Resources Committee on the 19th July 2023 recommended that PSB partners be invited to Scrutiny Committee meetings to provide insights into the work of the PSB.
- 2.2 Lead officers from across the PSB oversee the progress of the Well-being Plan and updates on the work ensuring that commitments in the Well-being Plan are delivered.
- 2.3 Officers from a number of partner organisations including a range of Council departments sit on the Food Vale Steering Group, to ensure alignment across various Plans and Strategies to maximise impact and avoid duplication as the reach of Food Vale is very cross cutting.
- 2.4 Key areas of focus for Food Vale recently have been:

- **Tackling food insecurity** - partners are supporting Council colleagues through delivering a range of food insecurity grants provided by Welsh Government.

This year Food Vale established a Vale Food Security Working Group, bring together local food support providers to share learning, tackle emerging issues, and identify opportunities to work together.

A similar approach is being taken with Llantwit Major, where Food Vale jointly co-ordinate the [Llantwit Food Project](#) centred around the CF61 Food Share pantry run by GVS. This brings together partners across all sectors working to improve access to good quality affordable food in the rural area. The Llantwit Food Project began in October 2020 and was successfully awarded Lottery funding in June 2022 to progress a suite of pilot actions to improve access to food locally. Learning from the project is being shared to develop a blueprint for future work. In 2023, the Llantwit Food Project won Welsh Government's Ystadau Cymru Award for its innovative use of public assets and work in collaboration to make a difference to people's lives.

Food Vale have also led on gathering insight into experiences of food across the Vale through research and community engagement exploring lived experiences of accessing food. As at May 2024 over 400 people have engaged either in person or through a short survey. This information will be analysed alongside data from other sources including the Council's Let's Talk survey to develop a better picture of food experiences in the Vale and shape future work and recommendations.

- **Food procurement** – Food Vale have hosted a healthy and sustainable working group in collaboration with Food Cardiff, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, Universities, Colleges and Local Authorities to explore how we can move towards more healthy and sustainable food procurement across the region.
- **Food in schools** – Food Vale have distributed grants to schools in the Vale for delivering cooking and growing activities with pupils, and continue to

signpost schools to additional support and resources for these activities through their [Food in Schools webpage](#). Food Vale and the Vale of Glamorgan Council are now involved with the [Welsh Veg in Schools project](#) coordinated by Food Sense Wales, which aims to get more organically produced vegetables into primary school meals across Wales. Two producers from the Vale are involved in the project for 2024.

- **Supporting and promoting local suppliers and producers** – work has been ongoing to promote local food suppliers and producers across the Vale of Glamorgan and will soon be centre stage in the second delivery of the annual Vale Food Trail 2024. The trail took place between May 26th-June 4th as a celebration of good food in the Vale of Glamorgan, bringing people closer to sustainable food producers and businesses in the local area.
- **Developing a new local Food Strategy** – over the last six months partners have worked hand in hand with local growers, local food sellers, community members and food support providers to develop a new local Food Strategy for the Vale of Glamorgan. This Strategy which is currently in draft format, will include a combination of short and long term actions to guide action on a wide range of topics to build a healthy, sustainable local food system.

- 2.5** The work of Food Vale and its links to the work of the PSB are reflected within the PSB’s Annual Report, produced every summer and scrutinised by the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee. Food Vale partners have previously provided updates directly to the PSB through Board meetings and to Town and Community Councils through the PSB’s Town and Community Council Exchange meetings.
- 2.6** Food Vale is an excellent example of the way the work of the PSB collectively tackles the priority areas of climate change and addressing issues associated with deprivation.
- 2.7** Members are requested to note the update provided in this report and its presentation to Committee and provide any feedback via the Director of Corporate Resources to the PSB on the work of Food Vale.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about sustainable development. The Act sets out a ‘sustainable development principle’ which specifies that the public bodies listed in the Act must act in a manner which seeks to ensure the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In meeting their sustainability duty, each body must set objectives that highlight the work the body will undertake to contribute to meeting the seven Well-being Goals for Wales.

- 3.2** Through the PSB, partners are working together to contribute to the national well-being goals, adopt the five ways of working and improve social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1** The work of Food Vale will support work undertaken by PSB partners to deliver against several commitments in the Climate Emergency Charter which all PSB partners signed in 2021. Partners continue to work together through the PSB Climate Emergency and Asset Management Group to lead by example, take positive action and reduce our impact on the environment. The PSB's Annual Report this summer will include details on the range of work undertaken by partners aligned to the climate and nature emergency, highlighting work under the PSB's priority workstream in its Well-being Plan which focuses on 'Responding to the climate and nature emergencies.'. This workstream recognises food as one of several factors that will impact this area of work.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1** Welsh Government have made funding available for the PSB in the form of a regional grant to both Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff PSBs. The regional funding shared equally between the PSBs is being utilised to further develop the PSB evidence base and progress actions linked to the 2023 -28 Well-being Plan.
- 5.2** Food Vale is housed within the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and is funded through the Prevention and Early Years budget. The partnership has received additional funding from Welsh Government as part of the funding made available across Wales to support the continued development of food partnerships nationally. This funding has enabled the Partnership's reach and breadth to be extended, as well as providing funding to a range of community initiatives associated with the Partnership's purposes.

Employment

- 5.3** There are no specific employment implications arising as a direct result of this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.4** There are no specific legal considerations arising as a direct result of this report. Actions set out in the Well-being Plan will help to tackle the inequalities linked to deprivation and to increase community participation and engagement. The work of the PSB will contribute to the delivery of a more equal Wales, one of the seven national well-being goals for Wales.

6. Background Papers

The Vale PSB Well-being Plan 2024 – 2028 - valepsb.wales/Documents/Well-being-Plan-2023/Full-Vale-PSB-Well-being-Plan-2023-2028-Eng.pdf