

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO AUDIT COMMITTEE

8 JULY 2010

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT & PARTNERSHIPS

WALES AUDIT OFFICE RECOMMENDATIONS – PROGRESS REPORT

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1** To provide the Committee with information on the action that has been taken to progress the recommendations made by the Wales Audit Office (WAO) in reports it has submitted to the Council in the last two years.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority

- 2.1** The WAO undertake a range of studies that help them assess progress with corporate priorities and the performance and financial standing of the Council. These studies also contribute to the audit opinion and the results of the work are reflected in the Auditor's Annual Letter.

3. Background

- 3.1** At the meeting of the Committee on 31st March 2010, Members were interested in knowing how the recommendations contained within reports on specific issues from the WAO in the last two years were being progressed and it was agreed that an update would be prepared for this meeting.

4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1** Members will recall that in recent years, the Auditors Annual letters have contained positive assessments about the progress that the Council has been making to improve its performance and its governance arrangements. In the context of the information that the Committee will be considering at this meeting, it is worth noting that the Relationship Manager's Annual Letter that was reported to Council in February 2009 stated that *"the Council continues to respond positively to inspection recommendations and has engaged positively with the Wales Audit Office's initiatives to promote improvement."*
- 4.2** The schedule attached as Appendix 1 contains a summary of the reports received and gives a progress report against each of the recommendations made by the WAO. From this, Members will see that action has been taken to implement all the recommendations but will note that some of this work is still ongoing.
- 4.3** In addition to submitting reports to the Council on specific issues, the WAO has also used the Annual Letters to identify a range of matters where it considers the Council needs to take some form of action, but these are often written as observations or comments rather than specific recommendations. It was impractical to include these in the schedule but Members will know that the most recent Annual letter was

reported to Council in February 2010 and this was once again a positive assessment of the way in which the Council operates.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework& Procedure Rules

- 5.1** There is no direct effect upon the Policy Framework or Procedure Rules, however, recommendations from the Council's auditors lead to management action and facilitate improved use of the Council's resources.

6. Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

7. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

8. Recommendation

- 8.1** That the Committee note the progress being made with implementation of the recommendations made by the Council's auditors as summarised in Appendix 1.

Dave MacGregor

Assistant Chief Executive – Corporate Development and Partnerships

30 June 2010

Contact Officer: Dave MacGregor
Assistant Chief Executive -
Corporate Development and Partnerships

Telephone: (01656) 643307

E-mail: David.MacGregor@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB

Background documents

None