

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO AUDIT COMMITTEE

28th October 2010

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PROPERTY & FINANCE

AUDIT COMMITTEE – PROGRESS ON THE PILOT SHARED SERVICE ARRANGEMENT FOR CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR WITH VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL.

1. Purpose of Report.

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Audit Committee of the progress to date on the temporary shared service arrangement of the Chief Internal Auditor with the Vale of Glamorgan Council for an initial period of up to one year.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority.

- 2.1. The shared service arrangement supports the principles enshrined in the Making the Connections agenda. These are reflected in the context of change, which underpins the Council's Corporate Plan.

3. Background

- 3.1. An Information Report was submitted to Cabinet on the 1st December 2009 providing an update on the proposed action to enter into an arrangement with the Vale of Glamorgan Council to share the services of the Chief Internal Auditor for an initial period of one year with effect from 1st January 2010. Discussions were held with the Chair of the Council's Audit Committee before any arrangement was finalised.
- 3.2. As part of the Welsh Assembly Government's "Making the Connections" agenda, the Council has been participating in a multi-authority project which includes options for sharing various aspects of Internal Audit services. These range from the introduction of common working practices to the formulation of shared services for specialist areas such as contract and computer auditing.
- 3.3. The post of Chief Internal Auditor within Bridgend County Borough Council became vacate on a permanent basis and the then Corporate Director of Resources approached his counterpart in the Vale of Glamorgan CBC with a view to sharing the role between the two authorities on a formal basis for up to one year.
- 3.4. The basis of the proposal was to utilise the skills and experience of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Chief Internal Auditor to fulfil this joint management role for both Council's Internal Audit services for a fixed period. The proposal involved the sharing of time on a 50:50 basis. The arrangement has been effective since the 1st January 2010.

4. Current situation / proposal

4.1. The shared service arrangement has now been operational for nine months and is working well. The Chief Internal Auditor is managing her time between the two Councils to ensure a 50:50 split is maintained. There have already been a number of benefits realised as a result of this arrangement. These include sharing best practice, harmonisation of processes and practices, the development and sharing of other staff and audits between the two sections and the implementation of a management information system which has significantly enhanced the control and efficiency of the section by providing one centralised source of audit information.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

5.1. None

6. Equality Impact Assessment.

6.1. There are no equality issues.

7. Financial Implications.

7.1. None

8. Recommendation.

8.1. That the Committee notes the report

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12th October 2010

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Background Documents

None