

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE RESOURCES & IMPROVEMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 2/3, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON THURSDAY, 23 APRIL 2015 AT 2.00 PM

Present:

Councillor M Reeves - Chairperson

Councillors

G Davies
GW Davies MBE
E Dodd
CA Green

Councillors

DM Hughes
E M Hughes
C L Jones
RC Jones

Councillors

DRW Lewis
J R McCarthy
CL Reeves
HM Williams

Invitees:

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Councillor M Gregory | Cabinet Member (Resources) |
| D Mepham | Chief Executive |
| N Young | Corporate Director – Resources and Section 151 Officer |
| L Skilton | Principal Transformation Officer |

Officers:

K Hirons Scrutiny
Officer

| | |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| A Rees | Senior Democratic Services Officer |
| S Daniel | Democratic Services Officer |

145. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following Member for the reasons so stated:

Councillor Cheryl Green - Unwell

146. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declarations of Interest were made:

Councillor John Spanswick declared a prejudicial interest in item 4 – Bridgend Change Programme, paragraph 4.8.26 as he has a family member who works in Adult Social Care

Councillor Edith Hughes declared a personal interest in item 4 – Bridgend Change Programme, paragraph 4.8.30 as she is Chair of Heronsbridge Community School

Councillor G Davies declared a prejudicial interest in item 4 – Bridgend Change Programme, paragraph 4.8.3 as a family member is employed in Cultural Services and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this part of the report.

147. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of a meeting of the Corporate Resources and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 26 February 2015 were approved as a true and accurate record

148. BRIDGEND CHANGE PROGRAMME

The Principal Transformation Officer provided the Committee with an update on the Bridgend Change Programme which had changed significantly since the last report on 5 June 2014.

He advised Members that in December 2014 changes were made to the responsibilities of the Corporate Directors so that the Corporate Director for Wellbeing assumed direct line management responsibility for Children's Social Care and became Director of Social Services and Wellbeing and the Corporate Director for Children retained the responsibilities for Education and Family Support, but also assumed the corporate lead responsibility for the Transformation programme and became known as the Director of Education and Transformation.

Members questioned the scope of the Cultural Trust and whether establishing a separate arrangement for Wood B and B Leaf would be a better option. Members were also concerned about the projects being encouraged to take a commercial approach to their work. The Cabinet Member Resources informed the Committee that establishing an alternative provider could give the projects a better chance of being sustainable. The explained the reason for the trust taking a commercial approach is that it has to be self-sufficient as the funding for the project had now come to an end. The Chief Executive commented on the importance of the mix of services to be included in the Trust being right to enable it to succeed.

A Member asked if the Authority is confident that the £437k saving in 2015-16 will be met in relation to different models of service delivery being explored for Parks Pavilions Disposal/ Transfer. The Principal Transformation Officer confirmed that the project would contribute to the MTFs savings rather than account for the total figure. A Member asked if the Parks and Pavilions disposal / transfer included savings on staffing costs and if there were any cuts in staff expected. The Corporate Director Resources informed the Committee of the expectation that savings would be delivered according to the Red, Amber, Green (RAG) status and that she would clarify its status with the Corporate Director Communities and come back to Members with the information.

Members raised concerns over the lack of progress for parties that have shown an interest in self managing services and suggested that this may be in part due to the impact of reducing back office support due to cuts in staffing teams such as Legal Services. The Corporate Director Resources informed the Committee that the Council intends offering a range of community assets for self-management by clubs and that discussions are due to take place in June / July with interested parties prior to due diligence taking place. The Committee requested that a single point of contact be identified to assist clubs through the self-management process.

Recommendations

- The Bridgend Change Programme updates should go to a joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee in future
- Building Capacity in the Third Sector and Town and Community Councils – Members recommend that a named BCBC Officer is identified as a single point of contact for interested parties requiring support when applying to undertake self-management of services, and for this arrangement to continue throughout the process.

The Committee requested the following further information:

- Information about the Parks and Pavilions disposal/transfer to include information on the recent consultation, whether staffing costs are included in the savings and the expected figure for savings specific to the project.
- Clarification regarding the actual amount of MTFS savings attached to the development and rationalisation of the curriculum and estate provision of primary, secondary and post 16 education, erroneously stated in the report as £1,000.
- Members requested a list of local parties who have requested information or support to enable them to self-manage services, to include information on the date of the initial enquiry and the status of the applications to date.
- That Scrutiny Team to consolidate further information received from the three recent Committees where The Cultural Trust Project item has been on the agenda to inform a request for an information report to address any outstanding queries.
- Members requested a clearer version of the BCP diagram.

149. **BRIDGEND CHANGE PROGRAMME: WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE BEST USE OF RESOURCES**

The Corporate Director for Resources provided the Committee with a briefing on the Bridgend Change Programme projects which relate to the Making Best Use of Resources Corporate Improvement Priority.

Through the Bridgend Change Programme the Authority has successfully delivered a number of projects that have helped reduce operating costs and make significant improvements to the way that the Authority works whilst also protecting front line services. It will remain the framework for the next three years. In December 2014 the Authority agreed that a single Director should assume overall Corporate responsibility for the Bridgend Change Programme, recognising the need to increase the pace and scale of the transformation required in the face of continuing austerity. As a result of rebalancing the Corporate Director's portfolios, the Director for Education and Transformation was given this responsibility and has since been working with the Corporate Management Board (CMB) to review and update the Change Programme and the projects contained therein. The Corporate Director for Resources referred to the appendix to the report which showed the projects currently being delivered within the Bridgend Change Programme, it provided the Committee with a briefing on the projects that fall under Priority 6: Working Together to Make the Best Use of the Resources.

A Member queried whether the waiver of the procurement of the hosting of the Authority's finance system would incur costs. The Corporate Director Resources confirmed there would be no costs as a result of the waiver.

A Member asked how much of the Procurement comes from Wales. The Corporate Director Resources informed Members that the Authority has to follow national regulations when it comes to Procurement and can not specify that the resources must come from BCBC although local contractors are encouraged to apply to assist the local economy.

Members queried the progress of the training programme on the new Community Care Information system. The Corporate Director Resources informed Members that a training requirements had been set out and a contract to deliver the training had been signed with Care Works.

A Member requested information on the National Project in relation to Sickness Absence highlighted in paragraph 4.4 of the report. The Corporate Director Resources explained that BCBC is currently involved in a project with the WLGA to share best practice between authorities with a view to continually reduce sickness absence across the Authority.

Members expressed concern that they were not being made aware of assets proposed for inclusion in the Enhanced Disposal Programme early on in the process so they are able to provide input into the consultation process.

Recommendations

That Members be made aware of assets proposed for inclusion in the Enhanced Disposal Programme at an early stage to enable them to provide input into any consultations and decision making

The Committee requested the following further information:

- The percentage of total BCBC procurement that involves Welsh businesses, services or employment.
- The number and percentage of staff using computers/laptops and tablets, to show trend over time.
- The number and percentage of staff on long term sickness leave who are ready to return to work but awaiting administration or HR processes to enable them to do so .
- Information on the actions and outcomes following the previous report on HR best practice.
- The number and percentage of staff undergoing disciplinary procedures included in sickness figures.

150. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Scrutiny Officer presented a report on the items that were considered at the meeting on the 23 April 2015 and sought confirmation of the information required for the subsequent meeting following the Annual Meeting of Council

RESOLVED: The Committee noted the topics to be considered at the next meeting of the Committee, to be scheduled at the Annual Meeting of Council in May and acknowledged that that the order and dates of items may be subject to change as Corporate Resources and Improvement Overview Scrutiny Committee will be dealing with regular Performance and Budget reports in the future.

151. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items of business.

The meeting closed at 4.45 pm