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Bridgend County Borough Council
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Ask for / Gofynnwch am: Andrew Rees

Our ref / Ein cyf:
Your ref / Eich cyf:

Date / Dyddiad: 15 June 2015

Dear Councillor,

PARTNERSHIPS AND GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Partnerships and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held in Committee Rooms 2/3, Civic Offices Angel Street Bridgend CF31 4WB on **Friday, 19 June 2015 at 2.00 pm.**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
To receive for apologies for absence (to include reasons, where appropriate) from Members / Officers.
2. Declarations of Interest
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest (if any) from Members/Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Members Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008 (including Whipping Declarations)
3. Approval of Minutes 3 - 8
To receive for approval, the minutes of the meeting of the Community Safety and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 17 March 2015.
4. Legal Services Collaboration 9 - 14
Invitees:

Councillor C E Smith – Cabinet Member Regeneration & Economic Development
Kelly Watson – Group Manager Legal & Democratic Services
5. Forward Work Programme 2015-16 15 - 28
6. Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee Champion Update 29 - 32
7. Corporate Parenting Champion, Budget Research and Evaluation Panel and Local Service Board Overview and Scrutiny Panel Nomination Report 33 - 38

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8. Forward Work Programme Update

39 - 42

9. Urgent Items

To consider any items of business in respect of which notice has been given in accordance with Part 4 (paragraph 4) of the Council Procedure Rules and which the person presiding at the meeting is of the opinion should by reason of special circumstances be transacted at the meeting as a matter of urgency

Yours faithfully

P A Jolley

Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services

Distribution:

Councillors:

N Clarke
E Dodd
L Ellis
EM Hughes

Councillors

M Jones
JR McCarthy
HE Morgan
AD Owen

Councillors

M Thomas
RL Thomas
KJ Watts
C Westwood

Agenda Item 3

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 17 MARCH 2015

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND ON TUESDAY, 17 MARCH 2015 AT 2.00PM

Present:

Councillor N Clarke - Chairperson

| | | |
|------------|--------------|------------|
| E M Hughes | J R McCarthy | M Thomas |
| R M James | H E Morgan | R L Thomas |
| M Jones | A D Owen | C Westwood |
| J E Lewis | | |

Officers:

G Jewell - Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny
M A Galvin - Senior Democratic Services Officer – Committees

Invitees:

D Mepham – Chief Executive
N Young – Corporate Director – Resources
M Shephard – Corporate Director – Communities
S Cooper – Corporate Director – Safeguarding and Family Support
D McMillan – Corporate Director – Safeguarding and Transformation
L Jones – Head of Regulatory Services
K Watson – Group Manager Legal and Democratic Services
D Exton – Group Manager - Finance
Councillor C E Smith – Cabinet Member – Strategic Change
Councillor E P Foley – Chairperson, Children and Young People O&SC
Councillor P Davies – Chairperson, Health and Wellbeing O&SC
Councillor M Reeves – Chairperson, Corporate Resources and Improvement O&SC
Councillor J C Spanswick – Chairperson, Community Renewal and Environment O&SC
Councillor M Gregory – Cabinet Member - Resources

127 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following Member:-

Councillor C J James

128 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor J C Spanswick declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5, in that his wife was an employee within BCBC.

129 MINUTES OF A PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of a meeting of the Community Safety and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 18 December 2014 and 20 January 2015 were approved as a true and accurate, subject to Councillor M Thomas being added to the list of apologies for absence for the meeting.

130 DIRECTORATE BUSINESS PLANS 2015-16

The Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny presented a report, the purpose of which, was to provide the Committee with an opportunity to comment on the Council's draft Directorate Business Plans for 2015-16 shown attached to the report at Appendices A to E.

Prior to the Invitees being invited into the meeting, Members went through a number of aspects of each of the Business Plans, with the support of the Democratic Services Officer – Scrutiny, including proposed questions they indicated they would ask of the Invitees.

The Invitees were then invited into the meeting

A Member referred to paragraph 4.2 of the report, and suggested that a prescribed template be used for future Business Plans, especially now that they are being looked at on a corporate level - for ease of reference between plans for Members and the public.

This was reinforced by another Member who stated that the Council are trying to avoid a silo mentality with reference to ways of working.

The Chairperson pointed out that diagrams in certain areas of the Appendices were also too small, and the wording contained within these needed to be in larger font size, i.e. 12 or 14.

A Member then referred to page 30 of Appendix A, and the third bullet point under the heading Weaknesses- high repair and maintenance backlog to school buildings (circa £37m) with budget insufficient to address the backlog. She asked under what criteria would works to schools be undertaken, especially works that may require to be done as a matter of urgency.

The Corporate Director – Education and Transformation confirmed that the Authority had received Welsh Government match funding to embark on its School Modernisation Programme, and also that a similar programme for old primary schools primarily in the valley communities would ensure funding was received up to 2019. However, from 2019 – 2024 the Council would then be fully reliant on match funding schemes for this purpose.

She added that there was also a £600k maintenance fund available for more minor school works, though there was some contingency available for any works that may be required as a matter of urgency, as a result of a catastrophe taking place at any school, for example from a fire or flooding etc.

A Member noted from page 33 of the report, that there was no breakdown of information that fell under the heading of Safeguarding, for example, in terms of Fostering, Adoptions and CAMHS. He felt that this part of the Plan should include positive information that had arisen from the Council's Permanency Strategy.

The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing confirmed that all information in relation to safeguarding of children is currently being compiled to be included in her Wellbeing Directorate Business Plan that would be completed by April, as this area of work had recently crossed into her Directorate from the Children's Directorate.

A Member noted from page 33 of the report that under the Budget allocated for different aspects of learning, there was nothing proposed to be allocated to the Music Service at schools for 2015-16 and the three subsequent years and suggested that the line be deleted.

The Corporate Director – Education and Transformation advised that a budget was allocated to schools for Music Services which the Council funded but which schools bought back. She felt that perhaps an explanatory note would be of some benefit in this area of the Business Plan, so as to explain this.

A Member noted that the number of staff working in the Safeguarding and Family Support Section had reduced. In light of this, he asked the Invitees if they were confident that there was a sufficient enough taskforce to ensure that attempts to reduce the number of Looked After Children (LAC) could actually be achieved through early intervention and preventative measures being put in place.

The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing advised that though a commitment had been given to reduce the numbers of LAC by using the above approach, it was too early to say whether this would be successfully achievable. The number of LAC had recently reduced from 410 to 391, though there was no guarantee to confirm that this trend would actually continue, as to some degree or another it was out of the Authorities control. It was confirmed that the decrease in staff did not include any social workers.

The Chief Executive noted that there would be quite a considerable number of issues to cover when taking into account each of the 5 Directorate Business Plans, and the number of points that were being raised by Members on the content of these. He felt that the main thrust was not so much to ensure that each of the Plans were perfect in terms of their layout and format, but more about how they fitted into the MTFs and fed into the Corporate Plan including its priorities and commitments. He felt therefore that Members should not be examining so much each individual Plan per se, but to establish whether or not each Directorate were being effective in terms of business planning. The more important elements of the Plans needed to be examined he considered, including aims, objectives, targets and risks etc. He thought that it may be a more pragmatic approach to involve key Members, for example the Chairpersons of each Overview and Scrutiny meeting, to be directly involved in this part of the process, ie putting together the key components of the Plan and having an input into which direction the Authority intend to travel.

He added that this could be achieved through a number of ways, such as inviting key Members to observe the business planning process, or him (and if necessary other Corporate Directors) meeting with Scrutiny Chairpersons collectively to discuss important issues such as the putting together of Business Plans and the monitoring of these throughout the year.

A Member made a general point, namely that more clear and specific targets needed to be expressed in the Business Plans where these had been omitted, and a more corporate approach taken to important areas of the Plans, such as sickness absence management.

The Corporate Director – Resources advised that where there were omissions or gaps in some of the data of the Plans, this was because some targets shown could not be fully completed until end of year, i.e. by April.

Conclusions:

After a brief debate regarding the Directorate Business Plans, it was clear to the Members and Officers that to continue to discuss all Directorate Plans in detail would take a considerable amount of time, therefore Members wished to make the following conclusions:

- The Committee confirmed that the Scrutiny Officer would compile issues from all Members relating to each Directorate Business Plan and forward to each Corporate Director as feedback.
- The Committee agreed to the Scrutiny Chairs meeting with the Chief Executive and appropriate Corporate Directors, to discuss a suitable way forward regarding future scrutiny of Directorate Business Plans.

131 THIRD SECTOR REVIEW

The Corporate Director - Resources submitted a report, in order to the inform Committee of the outcomes of the reviews of Third Sector organisations, as part of the overall Third Sector Review, to identify any issues arising from the reviews, and to consider the achievability of savings for 2015-16 and 2016-17, as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). And whether or not there is scope for further savings.

The Chairperson referred to page 203 of the report and noted that in terms of Action for Children, a decision had been taken not to continue the service in 2014-15. She asked what the reason was for the withdrawal of funding for this.

The Corporate Director - Education and Transformation confirmed that this was the funding for Family Support, including specialist services. Following a review of this, it had been decided to undertake the work for this in-house as it would turn out to be more cost effective.

A Member also noted that there had been a reduction in core funding for the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) which was a very important voluntary organisation that supported the public as a whole. He asked if this reduction in funding had been discussed with CAB, as if anything, this service was increasing in terms of demand.

The Corporate Director – Resources advised that such discussions with the organisation had taken place, with the view of making them savings in other ways to compensate for their reduction in funding, for example through reducing their overheads and looking at other avenues through which they could possibly receive core funding elsewhere.

In response to a point made by the Chairperson, the Corporate Director – Resources advised that there had been some effect on the level of service delivery provided by organisations such as CAB, BAVO and Groundwork Bridgend, as a result of the reduction in funding being allocated to these third sector organisations. She reiterated however, that Officers had worked with them to try and reduce their cost base.

The Cabinet Member – Resources added that even though Groundwork Bridgend were no longer operational, the Authority may still use services provided by Groundwork Wales based in Caerphilly.

A Member referred to page 205 of the report and paragraph 4.11 where it referred to a new Contract having been provided to include Independent Visiting Services which historically have been spot purchased as and when required for an individual or young person on an ad hoc basis. She asked if Invitees could expand upon this.

The Corporate Director – Resources advised that she would obtain details regarding this from the Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing and provide this to the Member outside of the meeting.

The Corporate Director – Education and Transformation added that she would be leading on the Corporate Transformation agenda, and more scoping work would be required as part of this to encourage partnership working with key organisations and stakeholders, including Town and Community Councils. Greater use of commissioning and partnership working was required to overcome future budget restraints and to more fully utilise avenues of funding that may be available for these organisations that was not available to the Council as local authority. The support of the third sector was very important both for the society of Bridgend and its economy she added.

The Chairperson asked who was responsible for monitoring grants that were awarded where value for money and that they were providing their purpose.

The Corporate Director – Resources stated that these would be audited in order to ensure that they were providing value for money.

Conclusions:

The Committee noted the report and made the following comments:

- When using the closure of Bettws Life Centre due to the administration of Groundwork as an example, Members emphasised the need to put provisions in place to protect the reputation of the Council;
- When discussing the Transformation agenda and the greater need of support of the third sector, Members were keen to highlight that Officers also look to utilise the use of small local businesses as well as large.

Additional Information

Members requested that they receive:

- Further information on the Independent Visiting Services, in line with the Council meeting its statutory duty to deliver Independent Professional Advocacy for all children and young people engaged with social services;
- Members requested to view a breakdown of the Third Sector Review - detailing reasons why funding has ended for each Third Sector organisation.

The meeting closed at 4.10pm

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19th June 2015

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

LEGAL SERVICES COLLABORATION

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report seeks to provide information on the legal services collaboration.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

2.1 The collaboration assists in achieving all objectives and priorities.

3. Background

3.1 The committee is aware that legal services collaboration is the result of Monitoring Officers from Bridgend, Ceredigion, Carmarthen, Swansea, Neath Port Talbot and Pembrokeshire Councils recognising the future resilience problems to be faced. Since 2012 Powys County Council has joined the collaboration.

3.2 The Collaboration is overseen by the Central & South West Programme Board. This consists of the Leaders and Chief Executives of all the Local Authorities in that area along with Welsh Government representation. The project received Welsh Government funding for a full time project manager. This created discipline within the project. The direct involvement of the Monitoring Officers / Heads of Legal ensured a pragmatic and realistic project plan.

3.3 Initial work involved the development of a skills matrix to better understand the skills shortages within each Authority. Initial and ongoing savings were provided by joint procurement of library and time recording / performance management systems. These savings were fed directly into departmental annual budget reductions.

3.4 Recognition was given to the need for support to staff. Special Interest Groups (SIGs) were set up in order to strengthen service resilience and support and encourage the development of staff. Specialists from each Authority were able to contact and meet each other to work together on regional projects, develop skills through joint training and support each other in daily working. With most Authorities having a single lawyer in some specialist areas, it enabled those staff to give and receive support from another five Authorities.

3.5 A central web based support site was created with the intention of providing a central hub of support for the storage of precedent and a method of secure contact between lawyers. In the event the Hub failed due to the considerable success of

the SIGs. Equally while cross authority working took place, it was less than originally anticipated. A recognition that even when working together, capacity issues usually mitigated against the flexibility to work for other Authorities.

- 3.6 In recognition of this problem and the cost of externalised legal work two projects were entered into to increase flexibility. The first was the employment of a joint commercial team; the second, a full EU procurement of external legal services.
- 3.7 The Commercial team, providing contract, procurement, property and latterly planning support is paid for equally by each Authority. Each therefore has access to a set amount of support, with the ability to purchase more, should one or more Authorities use less. The team provides services at cost and is therefore significantly less expensive than use of the private sector. The service is around £100 per hour less expensive than externalisation.
- 3.8 The E.U procurement process was led by Bridgend and was undertaken for the wider public sector in Wales. It has therefore been utilised by local authorities in Wales as well as police and fire services and higher Education. It provides procured hourly rates for both Solicitors and Barristers and has the facility of a software package to accurately determine the most advantageous rate. It enables simply the cheapest rate but also enables comparison on the basis of experience in that particular area of law. The procurement has saved 10% on previous rates and has (although not without contention) led to rates falling further.
- 3.9 Without doubt one of the most productive project streams has been in the education and training of staff. The impact has been both on the quality of training, being dedicated to local government in Wales and the cost. In Bridgend that has reduced, this report has already recognised the significant impact both on cost of provision and the quality of the training provided. Benchmarking data shows that Bridgend spent the most in Wales on training per fee earner at over £900. In the last financial year Bridgend was one of the lowest spenders at under £200. This has not been at the expense of quality or quantity with Bench marking data showing Bridgend providing 19 hours average per full time equivalent employee against the Welsh average of 17.2.
- 3.10 As the project progressed, funding was reduced to a part time project support. This has proven successful as the on-going work of the project is now more incremental than 'big bang'.

4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 The collaboration enables legal advice and representation for BCBC to be a truly commissioned service. It is a genuine mixture of internal, collaborative, joint and procured services.

4.2 Regional Commercial Team

- 4.2.1 The Regional Commercial Team was originally located in Swansea. It is currently split between Swansea and Bridgend and for the future is likely to include officers across the collaboration. The team has a current vacancy for a Principal Lawyer the team supports property, contracts / procurement and planning advice. The team receives instructions from authorities to work on matters pertaining to each

individual authority and has also carried out several pieces of work for regional projects involving three or more local authorities. The team has been successful in tendering for legal service provision to the Pembroke National Park and has carried out work for other authorities. The income from this enables the costs of the services to the collaboration as a whole to be reduced. For the future, individual authorities have recognised pressure points that cannot be met in the current structure and propose to invest further in the joint team. It is hoped that the trading aspect of this work can be increased in the future with the proviso that the core service to member authorities is not compromised.

4.2.2 The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) requires a £1.6m reduction to the Department. This has led to a consultation on future structure and redundancies for staff. There are capacity issues to a significant increase in work for the department, particularly in relation to contract/procurement/EU law and property. Equally other pressures have arisen due to maternity leave. The department is currently utilising under capacity in other authorities although it has been necessary in the short term to use agency staff.

4.3 Regional Litigation Team

4.3.1 The Regional Litigation team has been recruited and commenced in June 2014. The team consists of one Solicitor and one Paralegal and will provide services to three local authorities; namely, Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion. Welsh Government funding supports the team. The project board has determined to fill the current vacancy of the solicitor post with two paralegals.

4.4 Regional Trainee Solicitors

4.4.1 A total of nine trainee solicitors were recruited in 2013/14. This work-stream ensures ongoing development of expertise within Local Government. In the longer term this should lead to a reduction of costs through decreased externalisation and skills transfer training from the private sector. The addition of newly qualified solicitors to the region will have a significant impact on resilience and succession planning, however, partner authorities have not had funding to maintain the employment of all trainees. Again Welsh Government funding supported the appointments although Bridgend are not part of this project stream and the funding ended. There is concern at the board that whilst training has been provided the present funding situation across the collaboration is such that those newly qualified solicitors will be lost to the private sector. Equally there is no further funding to continue to train lawyers.

4.5 Legal Services File Sharing Portal

4.5.1 In conjunction with the Regional ICT Programme, a file sharing portal has been developed to allow documents and bundles to be shared electronically between Chambers, solicitors firms and other organisations. The objective of the system is to reduce printing and administration costs, while making data transfer more secure. The system is now live and provides a useful resource although; in Bridgend's case is affected by the inability to use the system in the Cardiff courts.

4.5.2 In addition to the above, the Regional Collaboration Fund (RCF) funding has provided Programme Management support to implement and oversee the projects.

This resource has also assisted with the identification of other potential areas for collaboration.

- 4.5.3 The RCF funding has facilitated projects which otherwise would not have been progressed. It has allowed for a step change in the approach to the delivery of legal services and is an opportunity to pilot shared service teams. There is a view that the service should now be implemented commercially as an income source. Future business planning is however required.

4.6. Current Issues

- 4.6.1. The individual authorities need to reduce budget and the removal of some Welsh Government funding is an obvious pressure on the collaboration. The impact has been a negative and positive force within the collaboration. It is disappointing that all trainee solicitors have not been able to find a place within local government and that the funding for these posts has been lost for the future. The pressure on in house teams has led to a greater reliance on partner authorities and on the joint teams which strengthens the need for the collaboration. The operation of the special interest groups has been a concern to the Board however and it is recognised that within some specialties the effectiveness of the SIGs is questionable outside the provision of training. Part of this is due to the decrease in staff and loss of experienced staff (particularly those who chaired the SIGs) due to budget cuts and new appointments. Other influences are in house pressures for time and support for those chairing the SIGs. The Board has organised a special meeting to discuss the issues with the SIG chairs with a view to restructuring the SIG portfolios.
- 4.6.2 The greatest concern for the collaboration at present is the loss of the framework agreement for externalising work to solicitors and barristers. Members are aware that the collaboration had undertaken its own procurement exercise (with Bridgend as the lead) and made this available to the public sector in Wales. That terminated on the 1st April and there have been delays in implementing a new framework undertaken by the National Procurement Service. It is hoped that the new framework will be finalised by August of this year. However there remain concerns that it may not be as effective as the previous framework.

4.7. Conclusion

- 4.7.1 The collaboration enables the Bridgend legal service to affect a truly commissioned service. The service provided to the Authority is a genuine mix of internal, collaboration with other Authorities and procured external legal services through an EU Framework agreement.
- 4.7.2. The collaboration has provided a significant support to staff and to the service provided to the Authority. Whilst historically it has not proved successful in sharing work between authorities there is a notable increase in shared work. The appointment of joint teams is an effective way of developing skills and providing services between the authorities. It is also proving successful in providing services to the wider public sector and producing an income for investment into the development of teams. There is of course a balance to be struck between trading and service provision.

- 4.7.3 The legal service is subject to benchmarking. Whilst care needs to be taken with the data the current benchmarking demonstrates Bridgend to have consistently high client satisfaction in totality and in being kept informed of progress. Sickness levels in Bridgend are low (as is seen internally), and the overall cost of the legal service was at its highest in 2010-2011. This dropped for two consecutive years, this being most likely due to the withdrawal from the joint childcare service and savings through collaboration. It is the case however that the costs of the service rose again in the last financial year with an increase in externalised work. This is an indication of the complex relationship between cutting services and the cost of providing those services externally even with the Framework agreement. It is fair to say however that the rise in the cost of legal services is one affecting all Authorities in Wales. The pressure on staff is also demonstrated by the benchmarking data with Bridgend recovering the highest number of chargeable hours from each employee at 1512 against an industry standard of 1200. The internal service costs on average are between 28% to 36% of the cost of procuring from the framework.
- 4.7.4 As can be seen from this report there is a divergence of project work within the collaboration. This is due to some Authorities seeking funding for this project while others sought funding for other project streams. In Bridgend the Public Protection Collaboration is funded but this has resulted in Bridgend not being part of the joint litigation team and the employment of trainee solicitors.
- 4.7.5 For the future there is a strong commitment from the partner Authorities to continue to develop the collaboration. The future is by no means straight forward with significant financial pressures on all authorities. It is considered however that the project is worthwhile and brings considerable advantage to the Bridgend. Work is planned to develop opportunities for trading within the public sector.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

- 5.1 None.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 There are no equality implications in this report

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 The Committee has already been provided with the following savings attributed to legal collaboration. It is likely that there will be an increased reliance on the joint commercial team in the current year as preparations are made to reduce the Legal & Regulatory budget by £1.6 million over the period to 2017/18.

- 7.2 The collaboration savings already identified across the Authorities for previous years are:-

2012/2013 – £357,351

2011/2012 - £257,153

2010/2011 - £107,786

- 7.3 For BCBC it is estimated that the legal collaboration has achieved savings on an annual basis of approximately £103,000 contributing to savings targets met from

Legal & Regulatory budgets in previous financial years. Examples of savings achieved are as follows:-

Staffing savings due to joint team £23,190

Framework agreement savings on external spend £16,800

Training costs reduction due to framework and Partner firms £15,000

Library procurement savings of (three year period £13,000) £7,000

Joint team outsourced work estimated for year £41,480 (based on £100ph saving)

At the time of writing the past years savings are being collated for the Regional Board.

8. Recommendation

8.1 To note the report

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Background documents: None.

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 JUNE 2015

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – LEGAL & REGULATORY SERVICES

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2015-16

1. Purpose of Report.

- 1.1 To present the Committee with suggested topics for consideration in the development of its Forward Work Programme for 2015-16.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The key improvement objectives identified in the Corporate Plan 2013-2017 have been embodied in the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes. The amended Corporate Improvement Objectives adopted by Council on 25 February 2015 formally set out the improvement objectives that the Council will seek to implement between 2013 and 2017. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees engage in review and development of plans, policy or strategies that support the Corporate Themes.

3. Background.

- 3.1 Under the terms of Bridgend County Borough Council's Constitution, each Overview and Scrutiny Committee must publish a Forward Work Programme (FWP) as far as it is known. This FWP period runs from May 2015 – May 2016.

4. Current situation / proposal.

- 4.1 An effective Forward Work Programme will identify the issues that the Committee wishes to focus on during the year and provide a clear rationale as to why particular issues have been selected, as well as the approach that will be adopted; i.e. will the Committee be undertaking a policy review/ development role ("Overview") or performance management approach ("Scrutiny")?

- 4.2 On 8 April 2015, a report was presented to Council where it was agreed that:

- i) Each of the following topics be considered by only one Scrutiny Committee:
- Performance Monitoring
 - Corporate Plan
 - Business Planning
 - Budget Monitoring

- ii) There would only be 6 scheduled meetings during the year for each Scrutiny Committee, which will look at a maximum of 12 service area topics. Without the capacity to support additional meetings there is a need for each of the Scrutiny Committees to:
 - Identify 12 topics for consideration which will provide the most significant value for the Authority and to the residents of the Borough of Bridgend;
 - Prioritise their workloads i.e. if a key topic arises one of the existing planned topics will have to be removed from the programme;
 - Focus their investigations to make best use of available resources;
 - Determine appropriate recommendations which will support the delivery the appropriate outcomes.
- iii) Once the Forward Work Programmes for each Committee had been determined, the Scrutiny Chairs will monitor the programmes of each Committee at their monthly meeting to ensure that the corporate priorities are being met. Proposals to consider a corporate priority topic will be included in the Forwards Work Programme report submitted to every Scrutiny Committee meeting.
- iv) There will be 8 meetings during the year allocated to facilitate collaborative committees to deal with cross-cutting issues, such as Supporting People and Bridgend Change Programme.
- v) In addition to the above meetings, there are 14 meetings allocated to Research and Evaluation Panels (REPs)
 - 2 meetings for the Local Service Board Scrutiny REP
 - 4 meetings for the School Engagement REP
 - 2 meetings of the Social Services Annual Reporting Framework (SSARF) REP
 - 6 meetings of the Budget REP

4.3 During March and April, Scrutiny Officers developed a longlist of potential items for inclusion on the Forward Work Programme, using the criteria set out below, which emphasise the need to consider issues such as impact, risk, performance, budget and community perception when identifying topics for investigation.

Examples of Issues to Consider when Selecting Areas for Scrutiny:

Initial Reasons:

- 1 Is the subject within the Committee's terms of reference?
- 2 How can Members add value in their representative role?
- 3 Is the subject being/been/due to be dealt with elsewhere in the Authority/partner agencies?
- 4 What would be the purpose of conducting a review of this area?
- 5 To what extent does the subject impact upon the Council's ability to achieve its key priorities?

Risk:

- 6 Is the subject a high-risk area? How does it relate to the Authority's risk management framework?

Performance Measures:

- 7 Has the Council demonstrated poor performance in this area?
- 8 To what extent is there scope to improve service delivery in this area?

Community Perception:

- 9 Has any consultation with stakeholders taken place in this area? If so, how robust was the consultation process?
- 10 Does the local community rank the subject as important?
- 11 How does the subject impact upon the Council's Community Leadership role?
- 12 Is the subject of public interest highlighted in the local media?

External Factors:

- 13 Has the matter been the subject of external/internal review or inspection? If so, what were the findings of the review?
- 14 Is there any recent/upcoming legislation that will affect the Council's approach to this subject?
- 15 Is the subject a Local Service Board priority?

Budget:

- 16 Is there a high level of budgetary commitment to the subject? Is there a pattern of budgetary overspends?

- 4.4 Officers also used the following sources in order to select items for inclusion on the long list:

- *Committee Requests for Scrutiny from previous Forward Work Programmes;*
- *Wales Audit Office Assessment Letters;*
- *Corporate Risk Assessment;*
- *Directorate Business Plans;*
- *Performance Reports to Scrutiny Committees;*
- *Annual business planning and budget setting process;*
- *Commission of Public Service Governance and Delivery (the Williams Report).*

- 4.5 Following the development of the longlist, Scrutiny Chairs and officers took part in a work planning exercise in order to develop a shortlist of items and provisionally allocate each item to a meeting date. The shortlist for Partnerships and Governance is set out at Appendix A and proposed topics for the collaborative committee which cross over with Partnerships and Governance are set out at Appendix B.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework& Procedure Rules.

- 5.1 The work of the Partnerships and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental well being in the County Borough of Bridgend.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 There are no equality impacts arising directly from this report.

7. Financial Implications.

- 7.1 The implementation of the Forward Work Programme will be met from within existing resources for Overview and Scrutiny support.

8. Recommendation.

- 8.1 The Committee is asked to:
- i. Consider the suggested topics for inclusion on the Committee's Forward Work Programme 2015-16;
 - ii. Identify the 12 Primary topics for inclusion on the Forward Work Programme and priorities those topics for presentation to the Committee;
 - iii. Determine if it wishes the Overview and Scrutiny Unit to undertake scoping exercises with regard to any additional topics that it wishes to be considered for inclusion on its Forward Work Programme;
 - iv. Prioritise the delivery of the Joint Scrutiny topics involving the Committee.

Andrew Jolley

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Background documents

Wales Audit Office Assessment Letters (August and November 2013);
Corporate Risk Assessment;
Directorate Business Plans;
Commission of Public Service Governance and Delivery (the Williams Report);
Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Committees May 2014 –May 2015.

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Partnerships & Governance (P&G) OVSC - Annual Forward Work Programme – DRAFT – possible areas for inclusion

| | Date | Topic | Rationale | Invitees |
|---|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | 19 June 2015 | Legal Services Collaboration | The Committee requested that they be kept informed of the progress of Legal Services Collaboration. | Andrew Jolley |
| 2 | 19 June 2015 | No Topic allocated | | |
| 3 | 09 Sept 2015 | Performance Management of Community Safety Partnership | The Committee requested a report on the Community Safety Partnerships reporting mechanisms and monitoring arrangements for the delivery of community safety responsibilities. | John Davies |
| 4 | 09 Sept 2015 | Public Protection: Regulatory Services Collaborative Project | <p>On 24 July 2014 the CSG Members endorsed the implementation plan for the creation of a shared regulatory service based on the 'collaborate and change' model. The Business Case was then approved by Cabinet and Council in October 2014.</p> <p>Members may want to receive an update on its progress. Members also agreed in principle that joint scrutiny arrangements should be developed.</p> | Andrew Jolley Lee Jones |

Partnerships & Governance (P&G) OVSC - Annual Forward Work Programme – DRAFT – possible areas for inclusion

| | | | | |
|---|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 5 | 29 Oct 2015 | Community Care Information Solution (CCIS) for Wales | <p>This project relates to the joint procurement of an all Wales community care information system which will support the NHS and all twenty two Councils in Wales. Bridgend County Borough Council BCBC is leading the procurement and has been awarded a £6.5 million grant by the Welsh Government to fund the infrastructure costs (report to Cabinet on 31 March 2015 refers).</p> <p>CYP Committee recommended that in view of improving shared working with partners and protecting children and young people, the opportunity is taken to ensure that the new electronic system (CCIS), incorporates methods by which data is made available and shared with partners that automatically flags up vulnerable youngsters.</p> | Sue Cooper |
| 6 | 29 Oct 2015 | <p>Western Bay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Adoption Service - Youth Offending Service - Regional Safeguarding Childrens Board - Learning Disabilities - Mental Health Services - Community Services (Intermediate Care): | <p>This topic has been previously been presented to both CYP and HWB, it is now proposed that this Committee look at the Western Bay project as a collaborative item, in order to have oversight of all the projects as they progress.</p> <p>To include updates on improved outcomes for citizens of the Borough and savings that have been realised and to incorporate information</p> | Sue Cooper |

Partnerships & Governance (P&G) OVSC - Annual Forward Work Programme – DRAFT – possible areas for inclusion

| | | | | |
|-------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| | | | previously requested by both Committees. | |
| 7 + 8 | 02 Dec 2015 | Directorate Budget Consultation Process | Presented annually. | Andrew Jolley |
| 9 | Not allocated to a date | Public Engagement | Local government measure recommends that local authorities develop an internal mechanism to better enable members of the public to engage in scrutiny activity. Work on this has already commenced. | Gary Jones |
| 10 | Not allocated to a date | Corporate Procurement Review 2014 | Members received an update on this item 20 January 2015. Committee have requested this topic be retained on FWP to explore the potential savings that will be made from the procurement and commissioning review | Andrew Jolley |
| 11 | Not allocated to a date | Other Collaborative Projects | Members may want to receive a report on other collaborative projects as mentioned on the Risk Register - Data Centre collaboration project; Motor Fleet depot project; work of the LSB to mitigate negative effects of Welfare Reform with Valleys to Coast, RSLs and other partners. | |
| 12 | | No topic allocated | | |

Partnerships & Governance (P&G) OVSC - Annual Forward Work Programme – DRAFT – possible areas for inclusion

Non Service Area Reports

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 st meeting following Annual Meeting (19 June 2015) | Annual Forward Work Programme | To present to the Committee with suggested topics for consideration in the development of its Forward Work Programme for 2015-16. |
| 1 st meeting following Annual Meeting (19 June 2015) | Corporate Parenting Champion Update | <p>At the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee inaugural meeting, they requested that a Corporate Parenting “Champion” be nominated from each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to become permanent invitees to the Cabinet Committee.</p> <p>The role of the Scrutiny Champion is to represent their relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee, partaking in discussions with Cabinet over items relating to children in care and care leavers.</p> <p>In this role, it is also suggested that Champions provide regular updates to their Committees to ensure that Members are informed of the ongoing work of the Cabinet-Committee and particularly any decisions or changes which they should be aware of as Corporate Parents.</p> |
| 1 st meeting following Annual Meeting (19 June 2015) | Consolidated Nomination Report for all Panels and Committees | To cover nominations to BREP, Corporate Parenting Champion and Local Service Board Scrutiny Panel. |

Partnerships & Governance (P&G) OVSC - Annual Forward Work Programme – DRAFT – possible areas for inclusion

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5 April 2016 | Annual Recommendations Monitoring Report. | |
| Not allocated to a date | Local Service Board Scrutiny Panel | The remit of the Committee also includes the consideration of the performance of Bridgend's Local Service Board (LSB), in accordance with guidance and to achieve this Local Service Board Scrutiny Panel has been set up in order to scrutinise the LSB's performance. Committee are to receive feedback reports annually. |

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Joint Scrutiny Committee - Annual Forward Work Programme – DRAFT – possible areas for inclusion

| | Date | Topic | | Invitees |
|---|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | | <p>Links between CAMHS / domestic abuse / Substance misuse / Homelessness/LAC etc.</p> | <p>Joint Committee with P&G, ASC, CYP and CEL.</p> <p>Members of P&G (formerly CSG) requested that scrutiny officers undertake a scoping exercise relating to the connections between the Community Safety Partnership and Looked After Children, due to common factors such as substance misuse and domestic abuse.</p> <p>The CYP Committee have requested that they look into the subject of CAMHS. However it is recognised that Child Mental Health cannot be looked at in complete isolation due to the factors linked with it such as those mentioned above.</p> <p>It may therefore be necessary to carry out a joint investigation – the specifics and focus of which to be determined.</p> | |

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 JUNE 2015

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – LEGAL & REGULATORY SERVICES

CORPORATE PARENTING CABINET-COMMITTEE CHAMPION UPDATE

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide the Members with an update from the Committee's Corporate Parenting Champion on the work being undertaken by the Corporate Parenting Cabinet-Committee.

2. Connection to Corporate Plan / Other Corporate Priority

- 2.1 The key improvement objectives identified in the Corporate Plan 2013–2017 have been embodied in the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes. The amended Corporate Improvement Objectives adopted by Council on 25 February 2015 formally set out the improvement objectives that the Council will seek to implement between 2013 and 2017. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees engage in review and development of plans, policy or strategies that support the Corporate Themes.

3. Background

- 3.1 Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of a local authority towards looked after children and young people. This is a legal responsibility given to local authorities by the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004. The role of the Corporate Parent is to seek for children in public care the outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. The Council as a whole is the 'corporate parent' therefore all Members have a level of responsibility for the children and young people looked after by Bridgend.¹
- 3.2 In order to further develop and enhance the Council's corporate parenting role with its partners, a Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee comprising all Members of Cabinet was established by Cabinet on 4 November 2008.
- 3.3 The inaugural meeting of the Cabinet Committee was held on 27 November 2008. It has been agreed that the Cabinet Committee will meet bi-monthly. The terms of reference for the Cabinet Committee are:
- to ensure that looked after children are seen as a priority by the whole of the Authority and by the Children and Young People's Partnership;

¹ Welsh Assembly Government and Welsh Local Government Association 'If this were my child... A councillor's guide to being a good corporate parent to children in care and care leavers', June 2009

- to seek the views of children and young people in shaping and influencing the parenting they receive;
- to ensure that appropriate policies, opportunities and procedures are in place;
- to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the Authority in its role as corporate parent against Welsh Government guidance.

4. Current Situation

- 4.1 The role of the Scrutiny Champion is to represent their relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee, partaking in discussions with Cabinet over items relating to children in care and care leavers.
- 4.2 In this role, it is also suggested that Champions provide regular updates to their Committees to ensure that Members are informed of the ongoing work of the Cabinet-Committee and particularly any decisions or changes which they should be aware of as Corporate Parents.
- 4.3 It is also proposed that Members consider how the services within the remit of their Committee affects children in care and care leavers, and in what way can the Committee can therefore assist in these areas.
- 4.4 Provided below is a brief update from Cllr J E Lewis who is the nominated Corporate Parenting Champion for the Community Safety and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 4.5 In July last year, the fifth Safeguarding and Family Support Service Annual report was submitted by the Head of Service following the introduction of the current arrangements for evaluating Social Services in Wales. It focused on the process of self-evaluation which involved consultation with Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) and would continue to be the major source for the CSSIW's inspection programme.
- 4.6 The Annual report delivered the council's own assessment of performance in respect of their social services responsibilities and focused on strategic objectives and improvement priorities across the department. The new approach to reporting is intended to:
- See that performance management accountability transfers back from the National Centre to the relevant council members, chief executives, directors, managers and officers;
 - Present a recognisable picture to those delivering and served by their Social Services locally;
 - Generate the core set of information needed by CSSIW to deliver their annual performance data and information;
 - Provide an assurance function;
 - Immediately link much more information to business planning to enhance priority improvement.

- 4.7 During October of 2014, the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee were advised that historically investment in Corporate Parenting towards prevention and early intervention initiatives had been done in a very uncoordinated fashion. In view of these findings, over recent years there has been significant investment as well as commitment towards both the prevention and early intervention within the county borough of Bridgend engaging with Connecting Families, the Intensive Family Support Services Rapid Response Team and Families First. Due to this the local authority has also increased the focus on developing integrated approaches in relation to supporting both families and social workers as well as other practitioners. It was acknowledged that there was a need to establish a Strategy to ensure that the range of prevention/early intervention initiatives in place were joined up coherently and emphasised a common purpose so that the needs of the children do not suffer or escalate in any way.
- 4.8 Key elements of the Strategy were to ensure that Childrens Services in Bridgend County are driving a “whole system” approach to supporting children and keeping families together. There were extra financial savings identified in the Medium Term Financial Strategy by streamlining the management of the education support services portfolio.
- 4.9 On the 5th January 2015 the Social Services Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014 was presented to the Corporate Planning Committee. On the 1st May 2015 the Act received Royal Assent. The committee was informed that the officers of the Council had been able to influence the legislative process by requesting the word “Wellbeing” be inserted in the title of the Act. The Act set out a new legal framework to bring together and modernise social services law which takes effect from April 2016. It is the intention that the Act will make social services sustainable by addressing economic challenges, taking into account demographical changes which would provide people with more control over their lives, care and support.
- 4.10 To ensure successful implementation of the new approach the Welsh Government Deputy Minister for Social Services announced that a Delivery Transformation Grant of £220k over the next two years would be provided across the Western Bay region.
- 4.11 It is the role of the Committee to ask the Champion any questions or raise any queries with him/her to be fed back to the Cabinet-Committee.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

- 5.1 The work of the Partnerships and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee Overview and Scrutiny Committee relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental well being in the County Borough of Bridgend.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 The attached report has been provided as an update and therefore does not relate to a specific decision or Equality Impact Assessment.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 The Committee is asked to consider and note the Corporate Parenting Champion's update.

Andrew Jolley,
Assistant Chief Executive – Legal & Regulatory Services
October 2012

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Background Documents

None

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 JUNE 2015

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE LEGAL & REGULATORY SERVICES

CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPION, BUDGET RESEARCH AND EVALUATION PANEL AND LOCAL SERVICE BOARD OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL NOMINATION REPORT

1. Purpose of the Report.

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a) Invite the Committee to nominate one Member as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee as an Invitee to meetings of the Cabinet Committee – Corporate Parenting;
- b) To seek nominations for the Budget Research and Evaluation Panel in line with the Corporate Resources & Improvement Overview & Scrutiny Committee's recommendations made as part of the 2015/16 budget setting process;
- c) Invite the Committee to nominate five members to the Local Service Board Overview and Scrutiny Panel in accord with political balance.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives

2.1 The key improvement objectives identified in the Corporate Plan 2013-2017 have been embodied in the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes. The Corporate Improvement Objectives were adopted by Council on 25 February 2015 and formally set out the improvement objectives that the Council will seek to implement between 2013 and 2017. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees engage in review and development of plans, policy or strategies that support the Corporate Themes.

3. Background.

Corporate Parenting Champion

3.1 Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of a local authority towards looked after children and young people. This is a legal responsibility given to local authorities by the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004. The role of the Corporate Parent is to seek for children in public care the outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. The Council as a whole is the 'corporate parent'

therefore all Members have a level of responsibility for the children and young people looked after by Bridgend.¹

- 3.2 In order to further develop and enhance the Council's corporate parenting role with its partners, a Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee comprising all Members of Cabinet was established by Cabinet on 4 November 2008.
- 3.3 The inaugural meeting of the Cabinet Committee was held on 27 November 2008. It has been agreed that the Cabinet Committee will meet bi-monthly. The terms of reference for the Cabinet Committee are:
- to ensure that looked after children are seen as a priority by the whole of the Authority and by the Children and Young People's Partnership;
 - to seek the views of children and young people in shaping and influencing the parenting they receive;
 - to ensure that appropriate policies, opportunities and procedures are in place;
 - to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the Authority in its role as corporate parent against Welsh Government guidance.
- 3.4 At its inaugural meeting, the Cabinet Committee requested that a Corporate Parenting "Champion" be nominated from each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to become permanent invitees to the Cabinet Committee.
- 3.5 At its meeting on 27 May 2014, Cabinet agreed that the Chairperson of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee be appointed as an invitee to the Cabinet Committee – Corporate Parenting, in addition to the Corporate Parenting Champion.

Budget Research and Evaluation Panel

- 3.6 In considering the challenges associated with continued budget reductions, Members of the 2015/16 Budget Research and Evaluation Panel (BREP) recognised the need for a 'whole Council' response to be adopted in managing anticipated cuts to services against a backdrop of increasing demand, public sector reform and the challenging financial outlook.
- 3.7 It was consequently recommended that the BREP continue in its current form as a standing working group to enable Members to feed in community intelligence gained from their representative role and engage in shaping future service provision.

Local Service Board Overview and Scrutiny Panel

- 3.8 At its meeting on 2 March 2009, the Committee received a report on the development of the Scrutiny Role in considering the work of the Local Service Board. The Committee supported the Overview & Scrutiny model adopted by the Local Service Board.

¹ Welsh Assembly Government and Welsh Local Government Association 'If this were my child... A councillor's guide to being a good corporate parent to children in care and care leavers', June 2009

4. Current Situation / Proposal.

Corporate Parenting Champion

- 4.1 The Committee is requested to nominate one Member as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee as an invitee at meetings of the Cabinet Committee - Corporate Parenting.
- 4.2 The role of the Scrutiny Champion is to represent their Overview and Scrutiny Committee, partaking in discussions with Cabinet over items relating to children in care and care leavers.
- 4.3 In this role, it is also suggested that Champions provide six monthly updates to their Committees to ensure that Members are informed of the ongoing work of the Cabinet-Committee and particularly any decisions or changes which they should be aware of as Corporate Parents.
- 4.4 It is also proposed that Members consider how the services within the remit of their Committee affects children in care and care leavers, and in what way can the Committee therefore assist in these areas.

Budget Research and Evaluation Panel

- 4.5 The BREP has previously been set up on an annual basis and focussed on examining the annual draft budget proposals to aid the scrutiny process. In contrast, the standing BREP whilst examining annual draft budget proposals, also undertakes informal consideration of proposals related to medium and longer term reviews linked with the Council's Strategic Change Management Programme. It seeks to assist management in the delivery of the plans to support change and the Medium Term Financial Strategy by fully utilising its community representational role to inform policy changes and provide challenge and the BREP will develop its terms of reference and methodology within that function.

Membership and Relationship to Overview and Scrutiny Committees

- 4.6 The Standing BREP will be constituted from the membership of the Corporate Resources and Improvement Overview & Scrutiny Committee, with the Chair and one other nominated Member from each Overview and Scrutiny Committee. In order to achieve the necessary focus and analytical depth, good practice would recommend that the total membership of the Panel be no more than 10 Members. The Chair of the BREP should be nominated by the members of the BREP itself at its first meeting.
- 4.7 The standing Panel's Forward Work Programme (FWP) should be informed by the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and Strategic Change Management Programme.

Local Service Board Overview and Scrutiny Panel

4.8 The Committee is asked to nominate five Members to the Local Service Board Overview & Scrutiny Panel, taking into account the political balance, as follows:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|------------|
| Labour | - | 3 Members; |
| Independent Alliance | - | 1 Member; |
| Independent Annibynwr /Independent | - | 1 Member. |

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

5.1 The work of the Partnerships and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental well being in the County Borough of Bridgend.

6. Equality Impact Assessment.

6.1 There are no equality impacts arising from this report.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 None.

8. Recommendation.

The Committee is asked to:

- i. Nominate one Member of the Committee as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee at meetings of the Cabinet Committee – Corporate Parenting;
- ii. Nominate the Chair and one other Member of the Committee onto the standing Budget Research & Evaluation Panel;
- iii. Nominate five members to the Local Service Board Overview and Scrutiny Panel in accord with political balance.

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Background Documents

Bridgend County Borough Council Constitution

Part II of the Local Government Act 2000: Executive Arrangements

Report of the Corporate Director – Children to Cabinet, 4 November 2008: Establishment of a Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee

Report of the Corporate Director – Children to the Inaugural Meeting of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee, 27 November 2008

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive – Corporate Development & Partnerships to Corporate Resources and Improvement Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 30 January 2009

Report to Strategic Partnerships & Governance Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Development of the Scrutiny Role within the LSB - 02 March 2009

LSB Report – 20 February 2009

LSB Report - Overview & Scrutiny Panel Proposal 17 April 2009

LSB Report – 23 July 2010

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 JUNE 2015

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a) present the items due to be considered at the Committee's meeting to be held 09 September 2015 and seeks confirmation of the information required for the subsequent scheduled meeting to be held on 29 October 2015;
- b) present a list of further potential items for prioritisation by Committee.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities

2.1 The key improvement objectives identified in the Corporate Plan 2013-2017 have been embodied in the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes. The amended Corporate Improvement Objectives adopted by Council on 25 February 2015 formally set out the improvement objectives that the Council will seek to implement between 2013 and 2017. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees engage in review and development of plans, policy or strategies that support the Corporate Themes.

3. Background

3.1 At its meeting on 19 June 2015, the Partnerships and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee determined its Annual Forward Work Programme for 2015/16.

4. Current Situation / Proposal

Meetings of the Partnership and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4.1 In relation to the Committee's next scheduled meeting to be held on 09 September 2015, the table below lists the items to be considered and the invitees due to attend.

| Topic | Invitees | Specific Information Requested | Research to be Undertaken by the Overview & Scrutiny Unit |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Performance Management of Community Safety Partnership | John Davies | The Committee requested a report on the Community Safety Partnerships reporting mechanisms and monitoring arrangements for the delivery of community safety responsibilities. | Detail research / To be confirmed |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Public Protection: Regulatory Services Collaborative Project | Andrew Jolley Lee Jones | <p>On 24 July 2014 the CSG Members endorsed the implementation plan for the creation of a shared regulatory service based on the 'collaborate and change' model. The Business Case was then approved by Cabinet and Council in October 2014.</p> <p>Members may want to receive an update on its progress. Members also agreed in principle that joint scrutiny arrangements should be developed.</p> | Detail research / To be confirmed |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

4.2 The table below lists the item to be considered and the invitees due to attend in respect of the subsequent meeting of the Committee to be held on 29 November 2015.

| Topic | Invitees | Specific Information Requested | Research to be Undertaken by the Overview & Scrutiny Unit |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Community Care Information Solution (CCIS) for Wales | Sue Cooper | <p>This project relates to the joint procurement of an all Wales community care information system which will support the NHS and all twenty two Councils in Wales. Bridgend County Borough Council BCBC is leading the procurement and has been awarded a £6.5 million grant by the Welsh Government to fund the infrastructure costs (report to Cabinet on 31 March 2015 refers).</p> | Detail research / To be confirmed |
| Western Bay | Sue Cooper | <p>This topic has been previously been presented to both CYP and HWB, it is now proposed that this Committee look at the Western Bay project as a collaborative item, in order to have oversight of all the projects as they progress.</p> <p>To include updates on improved outcomes for citizens of the Borough and savings that have been realised and to incorporate information previously requested by both Committee.</p> | Detail research / To be confirmed |

4.3 The table below lists all potential items that the Committee received at their meeting on 19 April 2015, which are put to the Committees for reprioritisation as appropriate.

| Topic | Proposed Date | Specific Information Requested | Research to be Undertaken by the Overview & Scrutiny Unit |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Public Engagement | Not allocated to a date | Local government measure recommends that local authorities develop an internal mechanism to better enable members of the public to engage in scrutiny activity. Work on this has already commenced. | Detail research / To be confirmed |
| Corporate Procurement Review 2014 | Not allocated to a date | Members received an update on this item 20 January 2015. Committee have requested this topic be retained on FWP to explore the potential savings that will be made from the procurement and commissioning review | Detail research / To be confirmed |
| Public Protection: Regulatory Services Collaborative Project | | <p>On 24 July 2014 the CSG Members endorsed the implementation plan for the creation of a shared regulatory service based on the 'collaborate and change' model. The Business Case was then approved by Cabinet and Council in October 2014.</p> <p>Members may want to receive an update on its progress. Members also agreed in principle that joint scrutiny arrangements should be developed.</p> | Detail research / To be confirmed |
| Other Collaborative Projects | | Members may want to receive a report on other collaborative projects as mentioned on the Risk Register - Data Centre collaboration project; Motor Fleet depot project; work of the LSB to mitigate negative effects of Welfare Reform with Valleys to Coast, RSLs and other partners. | Detail research / To be confirmed |

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

5.1 The work of the Partnerships and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental well being in the County Borough of Bridgend.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 None

7. Financial Implications

7.1 None.

8. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note the topics due to be considered at the meeting of the Committee for 09 September 2015 and confirm if it requires any additional specific information to be provided by the invitees listed or the Overview & Scrutiny Unit;
- (ii) Determine the invitees to be invited to attend, any specific information it would like the invitees to provide and any research that it would like the Overview & Scrutiny Unit to undertake in relation to its meeting for 29 November 2015;
- (iii) Revisit and consider the list of future potential items for the Committees Forward Work Programme and reprioritise as the Committees feels appropriate.

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Background Documents:
None