

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARTNERSHIPS AND GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 2/3, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 2.00 PM

Present

Councillor N Clarke – Chairperson

EM Hughes
M Thomas

JR McCarthy
RL Thomas

HE Morgan
KJ Watts

AD Owen
C Westwood

Officers:

Andrew Jolley

Assistant Chief Executive Legal & Regulatory Services and
Monitoring Officer

Lee Jones

Head of Regulatory Services

Helen Picton

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following Members/ Officers:

Councillor E Dodd

Councillor M Jones

David Holland – Head of Joint Regulatory Services

11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

12. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th June 2015 were approved as a true and accurate record

13. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Scrutiny Officer presented a report to Committee of the items due to be considered at the Committee's meeting to held on 29 October 2015 and sought confirmation required for the subsequent scheduled meeting to be held on 2 December 2015. She also presented a list of further potential items for prioritisation by Committee.

Conclusion:

Members noted the topics due to be considered at the meeting of the Committee for 29 October 2015 and would confirm to the Scrutiny team if they required any additional specific information to be provided by the invitees or the Overview and Scrutiny Team

Members requested further information on the Corporate Procurement Review update for the meeting of 2 December 2015, specifically how much of the procurement comes from Wales

Members agreed to consider the list of future potential items for the Committees Forward Programme and reprioritise as the Committee feels appropriate

14. REGULATORY SERVICES COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

The Scrutiny Officer provided the Committee with an update on the development of the Shared regulatory service between Bridgend, Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Councils. Following a procurement exercise using the RCF, external agents Atkins were commissioned in September 2013 to produce a business case, Target Operating Model and implementation plan for the creation of a shared regulatory service

The Head of Regulatory Services and Operational Manager Enterprise and Specialist Services gave a presentation to Members which updated them on the current position of the Collaborative Services Project.

Members asked if BCBC were confident that large businesses would choose Bridgend as a primary Authority to work with and if there was a possibility that Cardiff would have a larger intake of businesses wanting to partnership with them over Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan. They also asked how this issue would be addressed if this was the case.

The Operational Manager Enterprise and Specialist Services stated that the Regulatory Services Collaborative Project will allow BCBC to gain skills from working with larger Local Authorities and would benefit from a shared support to meet challenges that the authority will face in the future. The Operational Manager Enterprise and Specialist Services stated they were confident that businesses would want to work with them as they have an excellent reputation with the association of convenience stores which have over 33,500 members. She further added that a joint Committee consisting of two Councillors from each Local Authority involved in the collaboration has been set up specifically to monitor the Joint Regulatory Services Collaborative project and would be monitoring to ensure services are delivered objectively with workload monitored monthly.

Members questioned the success of the transfer of 170 employees to the Vale of Glamorgan authority

The Operational Manager Enterprise and Specialist Services confirmed that on the 1 May 2015 staff were transferred to their new contracts and pay arrangements, she explained that the transfer went well and staff had their first pay day on 15 May 2015. A consultation has taken place with staff to discuss any concerns they had in relation to the transfer which were immediately responded to. In response to a question from the Committee she explained that some staff have had changes in locations of their teams and they are continuing to develop an agile working project.

Members asked what the risks were to staff and how many redundancies had been made

The Operational Manager Enterprise and Specialist Services stated that any requirement for redundancies would be completed on a tier by tier basis and would be dealt with within the ring fencing procedures. She added that the primary purpose for the project was to make savings and for this to be achieved; staff numbers would need to be reduced. However, they anticipated that redundancies would be far less in a collaborative setting. She further added that most redundancies had so far been voluntary and some staff had moved internally to different positions.

Members asked what the improved outcomes would be when the Collaboration is fully implemented.

The Head of Regulatory Services stated it was too early to give an indication as the structure would need to be fully embedded for outcomes to be apparent but would report back to the Committee at a later date.

Conclusions

Following their discussions with Officers, the Committee requested they receive clarification of the staff numbers for the current structure of Regulatory Services compared to the numbers following the restructure; broken down by LA and to incorporate information on voluntary redundancies.

The Committee concluded that they would revisit the item in approximately 18 months to allow the new structure to embed and performance measures to be set in place and enable the Committee to then consider how the service has continued to perform under the new structure.

15. LOCAL SERVICE BOARD REPORT

The Scrutiny Officer presented a report which sought the Committees approval of a revised Terms of Reference for the Local Service Board Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

The Scrutiny Officer explained that they had carried out a successful review of the membership and contacted all the representative organisations that sit on the LSB, for nominations from their respective Trustee Board or equivalent to increase the membership and improve the effectiveness of the Panel. Briefing sessions and an introduction to the Panel had been planned for 1 October 2015.

RESOLVED: The Committee approved the redrafted Terms of Reference for the Local Service Board Overview and Scrutiny Panel

16. URGENT ITEMS

None

The meeting closed at 3.31 pm