

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

6 SEPTEMBER 2017

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – OPERATIONAL AND PARTNERSHIP SERVICES

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BUDGET RESEARCH AND EVALUATION PANEL (BREP)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request that the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC) determine the membership of the Budget Research and Evaluation Panel (BREP) under the new Scrutiny Committee structure.

2. Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The key improvement objectives identified in the Corporate Plan have been embodied in the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes. The Corporate Improvement Objectives were adopted by Council on 1 March 2017 which Council will seek to implement. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees engage in review and development of plans, policy or strategies which support all of the following Corporate priorities:

1. **Supporting a successful economy** – taking steps to make the county a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county.
2. **Helping people to be more self-reliant** – taking early steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services.
3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

3. Background

- 3.1 At its meeting held on 6 September 2017, Council was requested to approve the process for the Scrutiny Budget Consultation Process under the new Committee structure.
- 3.2 In the report presented to Council it was proposed that the COSC would be responsible for the establishment of BREP and its membership. A copy of the Council report is attached at Appendix 1

4. Current Situation / Proposal

4.1 The purpose of the BREP is proposed to be:

- a) Achieve consensus on the direction of the budget over the life of the medium term financial strategy.
- b) Achieve a detailed overview and assessment of the budget proposals where the expertise and knowledge of each Committee contributes to a Corporate understanding and appreciation of the draft budget proposals;
- c) Assist the Council to develop a budget for the forthcoming year that aims to meet the needs of the communities of Bridgend County Borough;
- d) To facilitate firmer understanding of the budget setting process and the draft proposals in order to assist the Committees in making informed comments, constructive challenge or recommendations to Cabinet as part of the budget consultation process.

4.2 Under the new Scrutiny Committee structure the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC) has the overall responsibility for budget monitoring throughout the year.

4.3 Each Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SOSC) would continue to receive an individual set of Directorate Budget proposals to scrutinise in December, as has previously been the case. The comments and recommendations from each Committee would then be consolidated along with the BREP's comments into one report which would be presented to Cabinet.

4.4 It has been proposed that the COSC continues its role and appoints BREP with such Members of the COSC as it agrees to sit on the Panel.

4.5 Following Council's consideration and determination of the process for the Scrutiny Budget Consultation Process under the new Committee structure the COSC is requested to determine the membership of BREP.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

5.1 None.

6. Equalities Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 This report has no direct financial implications.

8. Recommendation

- 8.1 That the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC) determine and appoint the membership of the Budget Research and Evaluation Panel (BREP) under the new Scrutiny Committee structure.

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Background documents: None