

Recommendations to other forums within the Authority

Recommendation to TCC Forum and Charter Working Group 1

The Panel recommend that the TCCs agenda an item for their retrospective town or community council to pursue whether or not there is appetite for creating a role to act as a strategic co-ordinator between LA and TCC. The Panel propose that this role could be funded by top-slicing the individual TCC precept and match funded corporately by the LA. Members highlighted the need to include what the role would cover and what positive outcomes this post would create.

Recommendation to TCC Forum and Charter Working Group 2

Members highlighted the need to encourage TCCs to work more collaboratively with other TCCs and with the LA to enhance their viability to maintain services that otherwise may not continue to be funded by the LA. The Panel also suggested that procuring services jointly could ensure increased value for money for their residents. Members therefore recommended that these comments be presented to the TCC Forum and the Charter Working Group to assist with their ongoing review of the Charter.

Recommendation to Scrutiny 1

Whilst understanding the risks, Members welcomed the school transport pilot and suggested that the pilot and its outcomes are considered by Scrutiny as part of their Forward Work Programme.

Recommendation to Scrutiny 2

The Panel highlighted the need to work more closely with the Police and therefore proposed that a Research and Evaluation Panel be established to look at Policing of the borough on a local level. Members proposed the following points and areas to go to the Research and Evaluation Panel for consideration as part of their ongoing investigative work:

- a) As the delegated powers to the Police and PCSO's varies between local authorities, the Panel recommend that clarification be provided on what powers have been assigned to the Police and what has been retained be the LA to inform all Members, members of the public, Inspectors and PCSOs;
- b) How often does the Chief Executive and Leader meet with key people in the Police to discuss and align priorities;
- c) How often do both the Corporate Director – Operational and Partnership Services and the Corporate Director - Communities meet with their counterparts in the Police to discuss community policing and safety within the County Borough and align priorities.
- d) The need for a joint plan between Police and the LA;
- e) How the Police assist the LA in relation to safeguarding vulnerable adults and children.

Recommendation to Scrutiny 3

The Panel recommend that Scrutiny receive data relating to the Early Help and Safeguarding Board's joint dataset referred to by the Corporate Director – Social Services, which will evidence how the work being undertaken in relation to Early Help has impacted directly on social services.

Recommendation to Scrutiny 4

The Panel recommend that Scrutiny receive the Social Services Q1 Financial Plan as soon as possible detailing the proposals for how the Directorate are going to make the savings over the forthcoming year. The Panel requested that the Chief Executive also attend this meeting to present a corporate perspective.

Further Information for Scrutiny 1

- Detail of where the Authority stands in terms of numbers of teenage pregnancies compared with the rest of Wales and what is being done to educate and support young people;
- Detail of the FTE for the 51 employees that have left the authority in the last 12-18 months from the Social Services Directorate and where these have come from, i.e. what staffing level.

Recommendation to Corporate Director Education and Family Support 1

The Panel recommend introducing stronger support and Governor training that is streamlined to focus on priorities to assist Governors with effectively managing and scrutinising their school's budget.

Recommendation to Corporate Director Education and Family Support 2

Members raised concerns highlighting that the Education Directorate always seem to choose the smallest figure and further concluded that the LDP has a focus on primary school provision with less on secondary, Special and Welsh schools. The Panel therefore recommend that Education, Social Services and Health work more closely with the Planning department to develop the Local Development Plan to ensure involvement in the whole process and to provide more influence on its content. This is to include consideration of all ages and all types of education, for example, access to Welsh and Special schools.

Recommendation to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny

The Panel recommend that the subject of Collaboration Working be put forward to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for inclusion in their forward work programme to:

1. Establish an understanding of the collaboration work that is being undertaken within the LA, including projects such as City Deal and Valleys Task Force;
2. Receive an update on the accountability arrangements that is in place of collaboration work/joint services;
3. Consider how collaboration work has assisted in achieving value for money and contributed to the Authorities overall budget savings;

4. Investigate and monitor the extent to which other LAs are working in collaboration with TCCs;
5. To receive the outcome of the Review currently being undertaken by Welsh Government in relation to TCCs and its impact on BCBC;
6. Explore how the Authority is collaborating with the Police and to what extent they have been approached to share the monetary burden especially in enforcement;
7. Explore why the Authority has not progressed joint services for HR other than the current pension system, as well as Finance and Democratic Services.
8. Internal collaboration – how are Corporate Directors learning from one another; what can be learnt, what positive aspects can be shared and how can this be transferred appropriately across other Directorates?

Recommendations to Democratic Services Committee 1

Following a discussion in relation to Member referrals, the Panel requested that the following queries and recommendations be referred to the Democratic Services Committee for consideration:

- The Panel specified that Member responses to referrals differ between Directorates– some respond much quicker than others and also provide a written response outlining a timeframe for resolution. What Directorates are compliant with timelines?
- Are Member referrals monitored for dissatisfaction?
- How do other LAs deal with Member Referrals?

With this in mind, the Panel recommend that all referrals are allocated a resolution timeline and detailing what action will be taken and that this be fed back to Members on completion.

Recommendations to Democratic Services Committee 2

It is further recommended that an annual report be provided to Members detailing an analysis of the themes originating from Member Referrals to improve their knowledge and daily understanding of the needs and priorities of the public including future budget setting needs.