

Date of meeting	Item	Members wished to make the following comments and conclusions:	Response/Comments	Follow Up Required
07-Feb-2018	Economic Prosperity of Bridgend County Borough	<p>Members commended the work currently being undertaken within the Local Authority on economic development in Bridgend, but recommended that the Directorate consider condensing the information provided within the report into the production of an Economic Prosperity Plan. This plan would enable members of the public to easily digest and review the work being carried out in the service area. Members further recommended that the plan detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Where are we now? · Where do we want to be? · How will we get there? · How will we know when we have got there? · How will we know if we have been successful? · What has been achieved? 	<p>Producing an Economic Prosperity Plan would be a considerable undertaking, as it would need to include the activities and priorities of a number of different agencies, including for example Bridgend College, Welsh Government. However, we could produce a document setting out BCBC is specifically doing to support businesses, and what indicator we use to monitor the general health of the economy.</p>	
		<p>Members expressed concerns regarding the potential gaps in funding post Brexit and the Committee recommended that urgent clarification be sought from Welsh Government regarding addressing succession funding planning.</p>		
		<p>Members highlighted the false economy in making cuts within the tourism service area and emphasised the need for a strong tourism presence to support employment and regeneration in the Borough, with particular reference to Cardiff City Deal and the prospective Heathrow Logistics Hub. Therefore the Committee recommended that sufficient resource is allocated to the collation of the Destination Management Plan, not necessarily from within the Local Authority but from effective partnership and collaborative working.</p>		
		<p>The Committee queried what support is available for citizens in the Borough with gaining information and applying for current employment opportunities who do not have access to the internet, as they may well have the skills required for the role but are being excluded for not having the ability to get online. Therefore Members recommended that new innovative ways of working are pursued into how businesses can advertise current jobs without using the internet and then how without access can they communicate with the employer. The Members suggested using a central area/hub/community centre.</p>	<p>IT resources and internet access is already available for public use in a variety of community venues and libraries across the county borough . Some businesses continue to use traditional print media also. The market penetration of smart phone usage suggests that it is not limited to more affluent areas - so access to informations about jobs does not appear to be limited to these areas.</p>	

	<p>In conjunction with the above comment and recommendation, Members emphasised the importance of improved transport links to isolated areas within the Borough, to enable commuting to places of employment and accessing training. Taking into account the lack of internet access in these areas, the Committee consequently recommended that the Directorate target consultation to seek the views and comments regarding the proposed cuts to bus services.</p>		
	<p>Members made reference to the statement made in the report regarding the most recent data from the Annual Population Survey and highlighted that there was no date attached to the statistic. The Committee therefore recommend that when any further data is presented to Committee that it is imperative that a date is also referenced.</p>		
	<p>Additional Information</p>		
	<p>The Committee stressed the need for schools to target and develop their young entrepreneurs within their secondary schools and colleges by being proactive in requesting support and advice from the Local Authority and the third sector. In relation to this, Members have requested to receive a case study following an entrepreneurship to evidence what was offered and the outcome following it – have they succeeded?</p>	<p>Response from SP - For school to respond</p>	