

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

20 MARCH 2018

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

REVIEW OF THE FUNCTIONALITY OF MODERN.GOV

1. Purpose of Report.

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Democratic Services Committee of some of the functionality of the Modern.Gov system and propose potential lines of development which would provide appropriate support and benefits to Elected Members.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

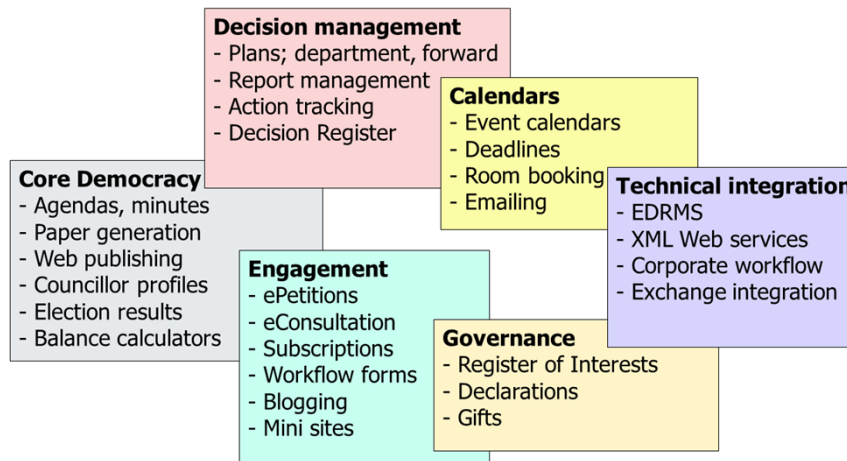
- 2.1 The development of the Modern.gov system will enhance the ability to deliver on all of the following Corporate Priorities:
 1. **Supporting a successful economy** – taking steps to make the county a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools 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 Bridgend County Borough Council is one of the 19 Local Authorities in Wales currently using the Modern.Gov system. The Democratic Services Team has been developing the use of the system since its introduction in 2014.
- 3.2 Recent developments have included the production of Forward Work Programmes and the publication of agendas and minutes in Welsh.

4. Current situation / proposal.

- 4.1 The facilities offered by Modern.gov cover the full spectrum of democratic activities and includes:



4.2 Not all of this functionality is currently being used but can be utilised as necessary. The following provides an overview of what is available but which may take some time to develop effectively:

4.2.1 Subscribe to updates

Members of the public, officers and members are able to subscribe to a list of topics, committees and wards that they are interested in. Overnight Modern.gov compares all of the subscribers interests with the new items published that day and sends each subscriber a personalised email with details of the items they may be interested in.

4.2.2 Online Consultations

Modern.gov enables online questionnaires to be created very quickly via a web browser. These can then be published on the websites (associated with a plan item if required), allowing the public to express their views on the matter. All items submitted by the public are held in the Modern.gov database, so that they can be reviewed and analysed.

4.2.3 Online Petitions

The system provides a highly configurable solution which allows the public, officers and members to submit an ePetition which is published to the website after an officer approval process. The petition can then be signed by website visitors and the current results displayed. Paper petition results can be included in e-Petitions or displayed on their own.

4.3.4 Members

The facilities for members and the Authority could be enhanced with information held within the database including, Election results, Call-in history, voting records and "My own webpage" for councillors.

4.3.5 Voting Record

Recorded votes can be legislatively required or requested by Councillors. The system allows recorded votes to be included in the appropriate location in the minutes and individual voting records can be displayed on the members profile page.

4.4 The Modern.gov functionality is continually being upgraded and all upgrades are provided at no extra cost.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework& Procedure Rules.

5.1 There is no effect on the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no equality implications in respect of this report.

7. Financial Implications.

7.1 All activities described in this report are being met from existing budget provisions.

8. Recommendation.

8.1 That Democratic Services Committee:

(a) notes the content of the report

(b) receives a demonstration of some of the available functionality of the Modern.gov system

(c) Identify potential improvements and developments which could be made to the Modern.gov system to improve the support provided to Elected Members.

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Background documents: None