

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## INFORMATION REPORT TO COUNCIL

24 OCTOBER 2018

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### WALES AUDIT OFFICE – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY – FIT FOR THE FUTURE?

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to Members the completed Wales Audit Office report in respect of the Overview and Scrutiny – Fit for the Future review.

#### 2. Connection to corporate improvement objectives/other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate priority/priorities:
- 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 The review explored how 'fit for the future' scrutiny functions are within the Authority. The review considered how Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) is responding to current challenges, including the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 in relation to their scrutiny activity and how BCBC undertakes scrutiny of Public Service Boards (PSBs).

#### 4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 The review concluded that Bridgend's overview and scrutiny function is well run, but needs to adapt to meet future challenges and should consider opportunities to work differently. A copy of the full report is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2 The review proposed areas for improvement which can be found on page 5 of the report. These are explored in further detail in the body of the report.
- 4.3 The report has been considered by the Audit Committee at its meeting on the 6 September 2018. The Committee considered the proposals for improvement and how they could be addressed.
- 4.4 An initial meeting between Scrutiny Committee Chairs, the Chief Executive and Officers has been held to discuss the Wales Audit Office Report on Overview and Scrutiny in Bridgend CBC. The proposals in the report were considered and potential future review activity was identified (**Appendix 2**).
- 4.5 The report and the potential future review activity was then presented to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 26 September 2018 where the Committee discussed the proposals for improvement provided by Wales Audit Office and made

several recommendations for strengthening Scrutiny in Bridgend which can be found at **Appendix 3**.

## **5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules**

5.1 There is no effect upon the policy framework and procedure rules.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

## **7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications**

7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

## **8. Financial implications**

8.1 There are no financial implications.

## **9. Recommendation**

9.1 That Members note the content of the Wales Audit Office report Overview and Scrutiny – Fit for the Future?

**Darren Mepham**  
**Chief Executive**  
**26<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

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### **Background Documents**

None