

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

21 NOVEMBER 2018

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

1. Purpose of the Report.

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present Council with a review of work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny during period September 2017 – September 2018.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives.

- 2.1
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 The Scrutiny Function

- 3.1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committees oversee the decision making of the Cabinet Members and support the work of the Cabinet and the Council. They allow citizens to have a greater say in Council matters by holding public meetings into matters of local concern. These lead to reports and recommendations which advise the Cabinet and the Council as a whole on its policies, budget and service delivery.

- 3.1.2 Within their terms of reference, Overview and Scrutiny Committees will:

- a) review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions;
- b) make reports and/or recommendations to the Council and/or the Cabinet and/or any joint Committee in connection with the discharge of any functions;

- c) consider any matter affecting the County Borough or its inhabitants; and
- d) exercise the right to call-in, for reconsideration, decisions made by or on behalf of the Cabinet but not yet implemented.

3.2 The following areas were identified for future development during the 2017-18 period. These include:

- a) To take forward the effective implementation of the revised scrutiny structure;
- b) To enhance public engagement with the Scrutiny process – through development of the webpage, Scrutiny survey and through increased involvement of external invitees at Scrutiny meetings;
- c) To explore and develop Joint Scrutiny with other Local Authorities;
- d) To explore and develop the use of modern.gov to incorporate Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes and a record of decisions and actions.

4. Current Situation / Proposal.

4.1 Attached at Appendix 1 is Bridgend's Scrutiny Annual Report 2017-2018 which provides detail on the outcomes and achievements from Scrutiny Members and Officers during 2017-18, as well as identifies areas for improvement to ensure Scrutiny continues to develop and achieve positive outcomes for the residents of Bridgend.

4.2 The report also states how members and officers have addressed the areas for development previously identified for 2017-2018 as outlined above in paragraph 3.2

4.3 It is evident from the self-assessment that scrutiny is delivering a good service but the expectations from partner Authorities, Estyn, the Wales Audit Office and the Welsh Government continue to increase. Regional and partnership Scrutiny arrangements have not been fully developed but are underway by the establishment of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal.

4.4 Scrutiny will be undertaking an internal review of its policies and procedures and will include a review of the current Scrutiny Committee structure to assess if improvements in the process are needed to ensure better outcomes. The review will take into consideration the views of Members, Registered Representatives and the proposals from the recent Wales Audit Office report of scrutiny in Bridgend.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

5.1 This report accords with the relevant Procedure Rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment.

6.1 There are no equality implications attached to this report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 assessment

7.1 The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with 5 ways of working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The following is a summary to show how the 5 ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been used to formulate the recommendations within this report:

- Long-term The consideration of this report will assist in the continued improvement in the delivery of Scrutiny business in both the short-term and in the long-term on its policies, budget and service delivery
- Prevention The Production of an annual report allows members and the public to reflect on the outcomes achieved over the last year and for the advance planning of improvement to Scrutiny procedures and policies. Members are provided an opportunity to influence and improve procedures as a result of the production of this report
- Integration The annual report supports all the wellbeing objectives
- Collaboration Consultation on the content of the annual report has taken place with Officers and Scrutiny Chairs and reflects the outcomes of the Wales Audit Office Annual report
- Involvement Publication of the Annual report ensures that the public and stakeholders can review the work that has been undertaken by Scrutiny members throughout the year and informs them how they can get involved in the scrutiny process, providing them with the opportunity to feed into and engage in the Scrutiny process

8. Financial Implications.

8.1 There are no financial implications regarding this report.

9. Recommendation.

Council is recommended to note the contents of this report.

K Watson
Head of Legal and Regulatory Services

Contact Officer: Sarah Daniel, Gail Jewell, Tracy Watson

Telephone: 01656 643387

Email: scrutiny@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address: Democratic Services - Scrutiny
Bridgend County Borough Council,
Civic Offices,
Angel Street,
Bridgend,
CF31 4WB

Background Documents:

None