

Bridgend County Borough Council



Annual Scrutiny Report 2017-18

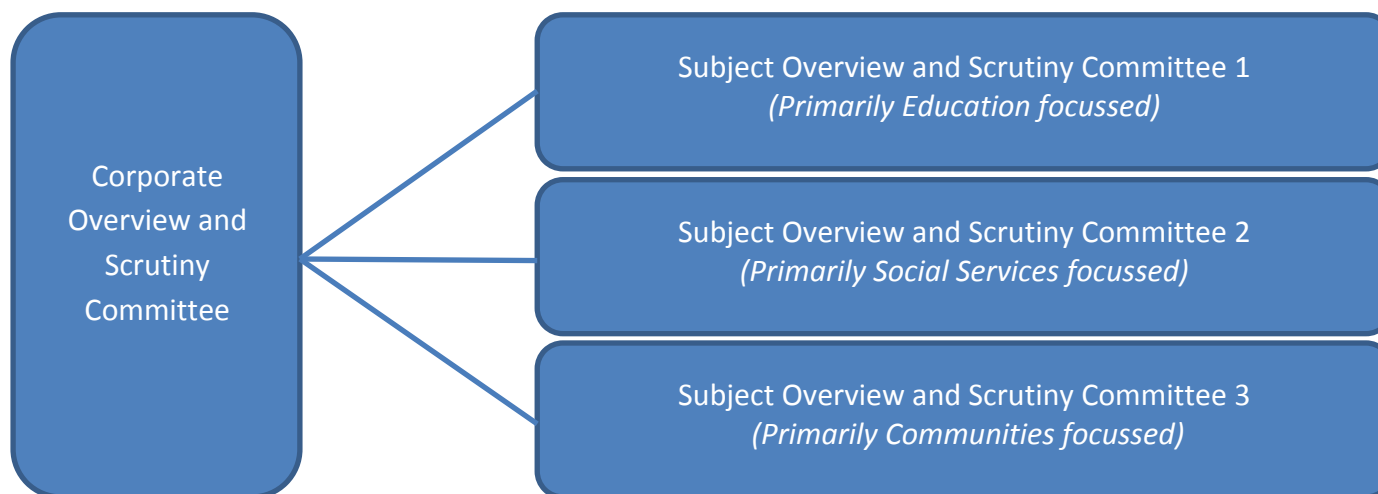
www.bridgend.gov.uk

Scrutiny in Bridgend

This is Bridgend County Borough Council's Annual Scrutiny Report which outlines the work undertaken by each Scrutiny Committee during 2017-2018. The report describes how Scrutiny Members have challenged the decisions of the Council to deliver more effective outcomes for the people who live and work in Bridgend.

As with all local authorities in Wales, Scrutiny has become an established part of the Council's decision making process. It plays an integral part in helping to shape local policy and makes a substantial contribution towards the work of the Council by acting as a 'critical friend'. Scrutiny in Bridgend has a positive working relationship with the Cabinet and the Corporate Management Board (CMB). A member of Cabinet and CMB attend every Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting to answer questions - enabling Scrutiny Members to effectively hold Cabinet Members to account.

There are currently 4 Overview and Scrutiny Committees within the Authority:



Within their terms of reference, the Overview and Scrutiny Committees undertake the following:

- Review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions;
- 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;
- Consider any matter affecting the County Borough or its residents; and
- Exercise the right to call-in, for reconsideration of decisions made by or on behalf of the Cabinet but not yet implemented.

How we Scrutinise

Scrutiny is not a decision-making function, but it does have the power to influence, investigate and persuade. Good scrutiny should be evidence based and unaffected by the bias of political parties and provides non-Cabinet Members an important role to play in the running of the Authority. The Council strives to ensure that the work of the Scrutiny Committees links effectively to the strategic work of the Council as outlined in the Corporate Plan. The Scrutiny Committees use a number of methods to effectively scrutinise decisions being made by the Executive.

➤ **Pre-decision**

Committees are consulted by Cabinet on future decisions and policies. Looking at decisions before they are made provides an opportunity for Scrutiny to influence and improve them. Members think about how the decision has been developed, what the risks are and how they can reduce them.

➤ **Performance monitoring**

Scrutiny plays an important role in promoting continuous improvement in the way in which the Council delivers its services to the community. Overview and Scrutiny Committees monitor the performance of Cabinet, committees and Council Officers. They look at individual decisions, policy objectives, performance targets and specific service areas.

➤ **Call-in**

Overview and Scrutiny Committees can 'call-in' a decision which has been made by the Cabinet or an officer but not yet implemented, which enables them to consider whether a decision is appropriate. They may recommend that the Cabinet reconsider a decision.

➤ **In-depth reviews**

The Committees carry out in-depth reviews into particular areas using Research and Evaluation Panels. These panels research, interview and investigate a specific issue. They then report what they have found back to the committee for consideration and action, such as a report to Cabinet

These panels include:

- Budget Research and Evaluation Panel – to assist in delivering financial transparency and accountability of the draft budget proposals and the Corporate Priorities.
- Member and School Engagement Panel – to explore school performance and improve levels of understanding in support of the Committee's accountability function.
- Public Service Board Overview and Scrutiny Panel – to review and scrutinise the efficiency and effectiveness of the Public Service Board and its decisions as well as the Board's governance arrangements.

Assessing the impact of Scrutiny

Capturing and assessing the impact of Scrutiny is not an easy task as the positive outcomes of Scrutiny activity are not always easily measured in a systematic way.

Whilst 'outputs' like the number of recommendations approved and adopted by Cabinet may be indicative of relations between the Cabinet and Scrutiny functions, it gives no indication of the quality of the recommendations made in the first instance and the extent to which it may have been later implemented.

It is important to recognise the positive effects of Scrutiny and its ability to influence decision makers through discussion and debate. Sometimes there are no measurable outputs from Committee discussion yet the opportunity for Cabinet Members and Officers to reflect on proposed courses of action has undoubtedly influenced the way in which the proposals are implemented.

Striking an effective balance between the 'challenge' and 'support' elements of the Scrutiny function is reliant on Committees building strong working relationships and demonstrating other key skills such as negotiation and influencing, team-working, policy analysis and questioning techniques.

Impact Monitoring

As previously mentioned, the impact of Scrutiny is not clearly evident in that there may not be a precise recommendation or action that can be measured for outcome, however, this does not say that there are not outcomes that are being achieved behind the scenes. In Bridgend, Scrutiny Officers have developed and maintained a process for keeping a record of this impact in order to try and measure the outcomes of Scrutiny.

This process considers the issue, the risk, the action taken and the outcomes. It takes note of everything from a Scrutiny Committee review to a simple change in a scrutiny process. Examples of this include:

- A change in process where feedback to comments and recommendations received from Officers are presented to the next meeting to provide the Committee with an opportunity to discuss responses as part of the Forward Work Programme and ensure evidence of outcomes from Scrutiny comments.

This process was highlighted by Scrutiny Officers at a national training event where it was praised as a very effective tool for monitoring the impact of Scrutiny, following which requests have now been made for the methodology used by Bridgend to be shared with other authorities as best practice.

Outcomes and Achievements

The developments and improvements achieved during this year have been accomplished concurrently to significant changes to the Membership of newly elected Members and within the Council's senior management. Every effort is being made to ensure that the scrutiny function in Bridgend is carried out to the high standards that have become expected of the service.

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

To take forward the effective implementation of the revised scrutiny structure;

- Through previous Scrutiny reviews it was identified that the structure of the Scrutiny Committees did not facilitate truly cross-cutting scrutiny or reflect the cross cutting portfolios of Cabinet Members. It was also acknowledged that there were areas of duplication within each Committee which prevented effective scrutiny. To ensure the continuing development of the Overview and Scrutiny process in Bridgend, a new Overview and Scrutiny Committee structure was implemented which consists of a Centralised Committee Structure with a Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and three Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- Scrutiny Officers have continued to drive forward the implementation of the revised structure and have worked consistently to show the benefits of the new structure, particularly the removal of silo working.
- As part of the new Scrutiny Structure there has been enhanced consideration of the Forward Work Programme report which is presented and discussed at each meeting. The early preparation of the Forward Work Programme allows for the advance planning of scrutiny business where Members are provided with an opportunity to influence and improve decisions. Effective Forward Work Planning has also resulted in more detailed report requests being stipulated to Officers which has led to a reduction of additional information being requested at meetings.
- Wales Audit Office undertook a review to explore how 'fit for the Future' Scrutiny functions are within the Authority, which led to several recommendations being made for strengthening Scrutiny in Bridgend. These recommendations will be explored and will feed into the internal Overview and Scrutiny structure review agreed to by Council.

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;

Scrutiny Officers have undertaken a range of activities which are intended to enhance the ability for Scrutiny to communicate effectively with the public and to better facilitate engagement, participation and democratic accountability. These activities include:

- Members highlighted the need to increase engagement in the Scrutiny process and incorporate views from the Third Sector in Committee meetings. This led to Scrutiny Officers actively looking for a range of external invitees from public and external organisations to enhance involvement and to provide evidence other than from internal officers, thus ensuring Scrutiny is as engaging and effective as possible. At a Scrutiny meeting discussing Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services an invitee from Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board welcomed scrutiny of the topic and commended Scrutiny on the innovative approach undertaken by inviting a wide range of invitees to discuss and provide their views on the item. Other invitees that have participated in meetings over the last year are from Kier Waste and Recycling Services, South Wales Police, Town and Community Council Members, representatives from primary schools, Bridgend College, Central South Consortium and the Chair of Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Cabinet. During consideration of the Forward Work Programme report, the Committee are asked to identify invitees internal or external that they wish to invite to future Committee meetings.
- The use of webcasting to increase the openness and transparency of the decision making process within the Authority has been developed and trialled throughout 2017/2018 to raise the profile of what subjects Scrutiny are considering. Due to the success of the webcasting pilot, Scrutiny is now committed to webcasting high profile topics at future meetings.
- The Scrutiny webpage has recently been updated to ensure that the content is user friendly to encourage participation in democratic accountability to improve public services. The Scrutiny webpages inform members of the public how they are able to participate in the scrutiny process and includes a revised and simplified version of the Scrutiny request form to facilitate requests from the public for an item for Scrutiny to consider. Although the content has been reviewed and improved, further work is currently being undertaken on the accessibility of the Scrutiny pages through the Councils website.

[To explore and develop Joint Scrutiny with other Local Authorities;](#)

Joint Scrutiny currently being undertaken in Bridgend is with the Cardiff City Region Deal Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Central South Consortium Scrutiny Working Group.

- Following a proposal presented to the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCD) Joint Cabinet for the establishment of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) to consider CCRCD, it was agreed that Bridgend County Borough Council would carry out the role of Host Authority. The Council's Scrutiny function is now taking the lead in co-ordinating scrutiny activity between all 10 local authority partners. The JOSC will consider if the CCRCD is operating in accordance with the Joint Working Agreement, its Annual Business Plan and determine if timescales are being managed effectively. The JOSC will make recommendations and reports to the Regional Cabinet and or any of the Appointing Authorities and their executives in respect of any function that has been delegated to the Regional Cabinet pursuant to the Joint Working Agreement. Scrutiny Officers in Bridgend have since started to progress with setting up the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee. So far, the ten local authorities included in the CCRCD have agreed to take part in the JOSC with each Authority nominating members to sit on the JOSC as a representative of their Authority. It is anticipated that the first

meeting of the JOSC will take place in October 2018 with a further 2-3 meetings being held in the first year. A number of training sessions are also planned for members of the JOSC to enable them to support them in their role.

- Bridgend, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taff and the Vale of Glamorgan are part of a working group with the Central South Consortium (CSC). The CSC is a school improvement service that aims to improve educational outcomes for all pupils. The CSC Overview and Scrutiny Working Group consist of the relevant Scrutiny Chair and a Scrutiny Officer that attends from each of the LAs involved in the CSC. The Consortium's performance is scrutinised on an annual basis by the relevant Scrutiny Committee in each LA who examine the detail of the latest school performance results and business plan. These meetings focus on data and activity relevant to the individual local authority whereas the CSC Working Group was developed to scrutinise on a regional level and received regional performance trends, share regional best scrutiny practice and the Consortium's progress against its 3-year business plan on regional basis.
- Bridgend's Regulatory Services have merged with Cardiff Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Council and there have been some discussions as to whether joint Scrutiny would be beneficial. Whilst this has not been progressed as yet there has been continued communications between the Scrutiny sections to ensure some standardisation and that each Local Authority is receiving similar information.

Areas for Development for 2018-2019

- To work with Communications to create greater accessibility to the Scrutiny Webpages and to publicise webcast scrutiny meetings;
- To give further consideration to recommendations developed in response to the Wales Audit Office Overview and Scrutiny – Fit for Future report;
- To review the current Overview and Scrutiny Structure and consider whether this model has achieved the aims set out prior to the restructure;
- To collaboratively develop and sustain effective scrutiny of the Cardiff Capital City Region Deal as Host Authority for the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Cllr Cheryl Green

Members of the Committee:

Cllr John-Paul Blundell, Cllr Norah Clarke, Cllr Jane Gebbie, Cllr Tom Giffard, Cllr Martyn Jones, Cllr Ross Penhale-Thomas, Cllr Bridie Sedgebeer, Cllr Rod Shaw, Cllr John Spanswick, Cllr Tim Thomas, Cllr Carolyn Webster

Role of the Committee:

The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider up to two main items at each meeting and in addition to this the Committee has responsibility for setting and prioritising the forward work programme for the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been delegated the responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder Regulations 2007 to review and scrutinise decisions made or action taken by the responsible authorities in connection with the discharge of crime and disorder functions. The Committee also oversees the decision making of the Community Safety Partnership and its constituent bodies (in respect of their community safety roles).

Key areas of work the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertook during 2017-18:

Core Outcome One

Better Outcomes

On a quarterly basis, the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive financial information relating to all Directorates. This provides the Committee the opportunity to monitor the information as well as refer specific service items onto the relevant Scrutiny Committee. By scrutinising the financial position of the Council on a quarterly basis Members are able to advise and influence the areas that require most focus.

A report was also presented to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee titled 'Rationalisation of the Councils Estate' to demonstrate the extent of the Council's asset management portfolio, the strategic direction of travel, the progress made with Community Asset Transfer and other major projects. Following discussions, Members made several recommendations in relation to the topic including that the Authority engage with the local community, as well as Town and Community Councils before Council owned buildings are demolished to allow an opportunity to retain the built heritage of the Community. Officers

agreed that Property Services would incorporate contact with the local community within its marketing strategy when disposing of buildings with traditional features.

Core Outcome Two

Better Decisions

The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee met recently to participate in a consultation on Supported Bus Services where they received the outcome of the public consultation that took place and provided comments and their views on behalf of their constituents. These observations were included as part of the Officers report to Cabinet and were considered before Cabinet determined to maintain the subsidy to three bus routes where the original proposal was to cut the subsidies to these services.

Under the new Scrutiny structure the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the overall responsibility for budget monitoring throughout the year. As such it was agreed that Corporate would continue this role and appoint the Budget Research and Evaluation Panel (BREP) from within the Committee Membership. BREP was approved and established in 2012 and its role is to assist in the delivery financial transparency and accountability of the draft budget proposals. BREP produce a report annually which is presented to Cabinet on the budget proposals. When collating comments and conclusions of meetings during the BREP process last year, in addition to proposing recommendations in relation to the draft budget proposals 2018-19 to 2021-22 and the budget consultation process to Cabinet, the Panel also made several recommendations regarding future budget planning. Recommendations were also proposed to other forums within the Authority, such as Democratic Services Committee regarding the Member Referral system and to the Town and Community Council (TCC) Forum to encourage collaboration with other TCCs to enhance their viability. Both these recommendations are currently being exercised as part of reviews into both areas.

Core Outcome Three

Better Engagement

Engagement opportunities are continually being explored by Members, Officers and Scrutiny Chairs to invite individuals with specific experience and knowledge to Scrutiny meetings. The aim of this is to provide Scrutiny the opportunity to hear the views of others and gather evidence to make effective and robust recommendations.

The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee recently received a report on the developments of the Cardiff Capital City Region Deal. The meeting was attended by the Chair of the Cabinet for the Cardiff Capital City Region Deal who is also the Leader of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, as well as Bridgend's Leader and Chief Executive. The Committee was given the opportunity to question the members of the Cardiff Capital City Region Deal Cabinet on the developments and upcoming projects and specifically how these would benefit the residents who work and live in Bridgend County Borough.

The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee also had the opportunity to discuss the outcome of the Public Conveniences consultation and deliver their thoughts and suggestions as part of the process. This ensured that the Committee was provided with the ability to voice the concerns and views of the citizens of Bridgend and guarantee that they were taken into consideration as part of the decision making process. Overall the Committee was pleased to hear of the proposed future alternative plans for public conveniences and strongly supported introducing charges for the use of public conveniences as an alternative to closure. Officers were in agreement with the observations made by the Committee which were aligned with the recommendations and course of action proposed to Cabinet.

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1

Chair: Cllr Carolyn Webster

Members of the Committee:

Cllr John-Paul Blundell, Cllr Nicole Burnett, Cllr Richard Collins, Cllr Pam Davies, Cllr Sorrel Dendy, Cllr Keith Edwards, Cllr Jane Gebbie, Cllr Martyn Jones, Cllr David Owen, Cllr Bridie Sedgebeer, Cllr Roz Stirman, Cllr Lyn Walters, Cllr Ken Watts, Cllr Amanda Williams, Cllr Julia Williams

Registered Representatives: Rev Canon Edward Evans, Tim Calahane, Ciaron Jackson, Kevin Pascoe, William Bond

Role of the Committee:

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 is the first forum for Education items which are the responsibility of the Cabinet and include in its membership registered representatives, one Church in Wales, one Roman Catholic Church; three parent governor representatives (one from Primary School, one from a Secondary school and one from Special School) to enable the statutory Educational Registered Representatives to attend.

Key areas of work the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 undertook during 2017-18:

Core Outcome One

Better Outcomes

Scrutiny continuously raises awareness of the need and importance of considering comparisons with other local authorities to identify best practice and to monitor performance from a national perspective. This approach was utilised while scrutinising a review of the future of Post-16 Education Provision across Bridgend County Borough. The Committee determined that for Cabinet to make any future decision regarding the proposed concepts for Post-16 education, evidence of best practice would be needed to be provided and considered from other local authorities in England and Wales.

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 also had the opportunity to provide its views on the proposed new model for Children's Residential Services and recommended that the Authority look towards providing joint regional training with other LAs and that consideration be given to looking within these LAs for experts to provide this. This joint training would not only assist in hopefully reducing the cost of training but would also help build relationships between staff, residential staff and foster carers regionally not just within our own Council. The Committee further requested that as part of the future Early Help and

Social Services item, the report include detailed analysis of the causes and demands on Children’s Social Services as Members commented that if this is not known and understood, then the Authority could not be assured that the changes that are being introduced are fit for purpose.

Core Outcome Two

Better Decisions

The Committee considered an item regarding the contribution of the HM prison Parc to the local community and the budget implications of meeting the new duties and responsibilities of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act. The Committee was disappointed with the decision made by Welsh Government to distribute grant funding across 22 Local authorities in Wales to provide a social care provision to the secure estate, as opposed to a specific distribution to those authorities with prison populations. The Committee therefore sent a letter to the Department of Justice and Welsh Government stating that it should reconsider the Grant funding allocation. The Committee felt the funding allocation had placed Bridgend County Borough Council in an unfair financial disadvantage by having a secure estate within its boundary. The Committee was concerned that without a sufficient allocation of the funding the delivery of social care services to those in the secure estate could be placed at risk. In addition to a letter being sent to Welsh Government by the Committee, the interim 151 officer also made representations to the Welsh Government Decision Support Group highlighting the imbalanced allocations.

Following the deliberation of the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Reform and the evidence received, the Committee agreed to make a series of comments and recommendations for submission to the Education and Family Support Directorate as well as a number of recommendations that were forwarded to Welsh Government for consideration in the development and implementation of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill. The Committee felt that the Council should write to Welsh Government to ask for extra resource in order to meet the requirements of the ALN Reform and the accompanying Bill, as well as additional funding and provision for schemes such as ‘Access to Work’ to assist individuals with ALN in gaining employment.

Core Outcome Three

Better Engagement

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 were consulted in the early stages of the Band B Development – the second phase of the School Modernisation Programme. The Committee was aware of the early stages of a planned new housing development near Llanilid in the Vale of Glamorgan/ Rhondda Cynon Taff Boundary and recommended that Officers engage at an early stage with Rhondda Cynon Taff Council and the Vale of Glamorgan to discuss secondary education provision including how the new development could potentially affect the population of the nearby Pencoed Comprehensive School. The Committee was

concerned and wanted to prevent any potential oversubscription issues at the school. Officers have since responded to the Committee outlining that the Communities and Education and Family Support Directorates work closely together to provide guidance to support the current local development plan and have held initial discussions regarding the revised local development plan from 2021.

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2

Chair: Cllr Cheryl Green

Members of the Committee:

Cllr Mike Clarke, Cllr Pam Davies, Cllr Sorrel Dendy, Cllr Jane Gebbie, Cllr Martyn Jones, Cllr Mike Kearn, Cllr Janice Lewis, Cllr Aniel Pucella, Cllr Kay Rowlands, Cllr Stephen Smith, Cllr Gary Thomas, Cllr Tim Thomas, Cllr Sadie Vidal, Cllr David White, Cllr Alex Williams

Role of the Committee:

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 is the first forum for Social Services and Wellbeing items in order to respond to issues relating to the Care Inspectorate Wales and those regarding Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

Key areas of work the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 undertook during 2017-18:

Core Outcome One

Better Outcomes

As part of ensuring a wide range of evidence and perspectives are provided, the Committee specifically requested that the report provide comparisons with other Local Authorities on undertaken dementia awareness training. This allowed the Committee to consider how successful Bridgend Council had been in making Bridgend Dementia Friendly. Representation from Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) were in attendance at the meeting which enabled BAVO to share best practice carried out by Vale of Glamorgan Council and highlight the benefits of being a dementia friendly borough. Being a dementia friendly borough means that all citizens have an understanding of dementia and how it affects individuals; in turn enables people and their families to feel more confident about living with dementia, knowing that within their community had an awareness of dementia and that the community was supportive of people to remain independent and live well with dementia. Following the meeting further training sessions on dementia has been provided to all Elected Members to increase awareness and enable them to become Dementia Friends.

Core Outcome Two

Better Decisions

This Committee considered the pre decision item 'Remodelling Older Persons Accommodation' where Members were asked to provide feedback in respect of the recommendation to tender as a going concern one of Bridgend County Borough Council's internal residential care homes, Ty Cwm Ogwr. Following discussions Members made several recommendations including the need for the Directorate to provide the Cabinet with further detail regarding the outcome from the full day drop off sessions, offer of 1:1 meetings and any further contact made with residents, their families and staff. This detail was presented to Cabinet as recommended which provided a greater understanding of the conclusions of the conducted consultations prior to Cabinet making a decision.

Core Outcome Three

Better Engagement

The Committee received a report on Prevention and Wellbeing and Local Community Coordination in which it received information on different initiatives that are currently available within the community as an alternative to statutory services and what input is being provided by the third sector, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board and other partners. External partners were in attendance from Bridgend Older Persons Forum, Bridgend Associated of Voluntary Organisation and the Primary and Community Services Delivery Unit who provided a wide range of observations from the vast array of bodies. Following discussions the Committee identified that there was a lack of collaboration, namely with the police and fire service and determined to add collaborative working with external partners to the Scrutiny Forward Work Programme to explore how best to encourage working more closely together and to ensure no duplication of efforts are being made.

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3

Chair: Cllr John Spanswick

Members of the Committee:

Cllr Stuart Baldwin, Cllr Tom Beedle, Cllr Norah Clarke, Cllr Paul Davies, Cllr Gareth Howells, Cllr Altaf Hussain, Cllr David Lewis, Cllr James Radcliffe, Cllr Rod Shaw, Cllr Roz Stirman, Cllr Gary Thomas, Cllr Jefferson Tildesley MBE, Cllr Matthew Voisey, Cllr David White

Role of the Committee:

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 considers the service provision, planning, management and performance relating to the relevant subject area prioritised and allocated by the Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee.

Key areas of work the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 undertook during 2017-18:

Core Outcome one

Better Outcomes

A report on Empty Properties in Bridgend was presented to Members of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 at a meeting in March 2018. The Committee heard evidence from Officers from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and from the Shared Regulatory Service. The Committee was concerned at the high numbers of empty properties in the Borough and felt that it needed to be tackled head on and so made a recommendation to Cabinet that BCBC recruit their own dedicated Empty Properties Officer within BCBC to address the issues that were in the Borough in a bid to also reduce the number of homeless people there were in Bridgend. The Committee felt that employing an officer through the Shared Regulatory Service would not provide the best outcome for Bridgend. Cabinet agreed to consider the recommendations provided by the Committee when they receive a further report from Officers detailing the remit and responsibilities of the Empty Property Officer.

Core Outcome two

Better Decisions

The Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 was updated on the Community Asset Transfer policy that was in place throughout the Borough and was informed of what support was available to town and community councils, community groups and sports clubs under the community asset transfer programme. It was evident that many of the Community Asset Transfers

had not been progressed as the groups did not feel fully informed on the procedure or supported throughout the process. Members emphasised the need for the method to be further developed and streamlined in order for the scheme to be successful. Members recommended that a Community Asset Transfer pack be created to supply to potential applicants to ensure they fully understood the Community Asset Transfer process from start to finish. Officers agreed with the Members comments and following the recommendation agreed that the CAT Officer would develop a standard information pack that could be tailored for a particular asset, therefore making the process more streamlined. The revised CAT Process is due to be scrutinised in January 2019 where an update on the agreed recommendations will be expected.

Core Outcome three

Better Engagement

The Committee have continually engaged with external partners by inviting them to participate in Scrutiny Committees to help shape policies and provide reassurance to the public that they are committed to the improvement of the delivery of public services. Members received a report from the Communities Directorate in November 2017 on the then newly launched and much publicised new waste collection service. Partners Kier attended the meeting to respond to concerns of the public and actively engaged in the Scrutiny function to drive improvement in the service they deliver to the residents of Bridgend County Borough.

Representatives from the Wallich and Pobl Group attended a Scrutiny Committee to give an insight into the current situation on the emergency accommodation in Bridgend. The Committee was appreciative to hear first-hand the scale of the problem and recognised the excellent support service provided to people presenting themselves to the emergency accommodation provision and was encouraged by the partnership working in managing these provisions.

Public Service Board Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Chair: Cllr Rod Shaw

Members of the Committee:

Cllr Sorrel Dendy, Cllr John Spanswick, Cllr Tim Thomas, Cllr David Lewis, Cllr Rod Shaw, Cllr Ken Watts

Role of the Committee:

From 1 April 2016, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 introduced statutory Public Services Boards (PSB) across each local authority area in Wales. PSBs work together to improve the social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being of the board's area. The Act specified that one Committee take an overview of the overall effectiveness of the Board which this Authority determined to carry out via a PSB Overview and Scrutiny Panel under the remit of the COSC. Its membership incorporates BCBC Members from all Scrutiny Committees (3 from Corporate and 1 from each of the SOSCs) and counterpart representatives from partnership bodies.

The purpose of the Panel is to review and scrutinise the efficiency and effectiveness of the PSB and its decisions as well as the governance arrangements surrounding it. The Panel can make reports or recommendations to the Board regarding its functions with the aim of enhancing its impact.

Key areas of work the Public Service Board Overview and Scrutiny Panel undertook during 2017-18:

Following the Panel's meeting in February 2017, the PSB Overview and Scrutiny Panel received a report detailing the development of the Assessment of Well Being in Bridgend and was asked to respond to the consultation on the Assessment of Wellbeing. The Panel made several comments and also requested to receive the Local Wellbeing Plan in its draft form at a future meeting. Whilst acting as a consultee on the Wellbeing Plan, whilst overall the Panel agreed with the objectives listed within the Plan, Members strongly recommended that additional detail needed to be provided to evidence how the PSB will implement the steps proposed to ensure the objectives are met; what agency will be responsible for carrying out the action and stipulate clear timelines. This would ensure each member is aware of their individual role and provide effective monitoring of progress to safeguard achievement of each objective.