

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO AUDIT COMMITTEE

13 DECEMBER 2018

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AUDIT REPORT – HEALTHY ORGANISATION REVIEW – ACTION PLAN UPDATE

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on progress against the Action Plan that was produced in response the Healthy Organisation Review presented to Audit Committee in June 2018.

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 outcome of the Healthy Organisation Review was presented to Audit Committee at their meeting held on the 28 June 2018. This review was conducted by South West Audit Partnership on behalf of the Internal Audit Shared Service (IASS). Members were notified by the Interim Head of Finance that the Council's Corporate Management Board (CMB) would focus on the high risk areas of the review and that these would be incorporated into an Action Plan.
- 3.2 CMB met and produced an Action Plan which was presented to the Audit Committee in September and which has continued to be monitored by them.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The previous update highlighted that many of the recommendations had been acted upon. Some recommendations included actions with a longer time scale and progress against these are recorded below. In a small number of cases, the management response was to not take action and these are also revisited below. In each case the narrative is organised by the headings identified in the original audit report and resultant action plan.

4.2 Governance - Effective Working Relationships

The outstanding recommendation related to the inclusion in the corporate induction framework of the Constitution and its associated Code of Conducts. This was scheduled for completion by the end of September 2018 and has now been

completed. The Corporate induction framework and e-learning module were updated to reflect these documents. As part of a separate initiative, all staff now meet with the Chief Executive within a couple of months of starting and this provides a further opportunity to discuss the importance of this and other core elements of the induction programme.

4.3 Governance – Transparency

The audit recommended that Freedom of Information Requests and their responses should be regularly published on the Council's website. This was not accepted by CMB because of the requirement for all web content to be translated into Welsh. As a result of this bi-lingual requirement and the associated costs, the Council is prioritising other web content that is of more frequent use to service users. Resourcing of translation services and web updates remains under pressure and so CMB still consider this recommendation to be a low priority and therefore no action is proposed.

4.4 Governance – Communication / Stakeholder Consultation

The recommendations were to clarify within the Council's Marketing and Engagement Team Plan, the process for communication / stakeholder consultation and the arrangements for officers and members to follow if they were approached for comment on a major issue which could have reputational significance. This was scheduled for completion by the end of November 2018 to coincide with planned review of the team plan. This work is underway but the expected completion date is now December 2018.

4.5 Risk management – Appetite / Transparency

It was recommended that the Council consider the inclusion of a numerical risk appetite value within the risk matrix to aid understanding of the risk register. CMB have revised the presentation of corporate risk and partially accepted this recommendation. They have moved to a 5x5 grid assessment of risk impact and likelihood which they believe to be more intuitive. However the main change is a shift towards more clearly highlighting the actions taken to mitigate the risk and how these are to be tracked and monitored. A report on the Risk Register 2019-20 will be presented to the Audit Committee in January 2019.

4.6 Commissioning and Procurement -Strategy and Commissioning Intentions

Two recommendations were made and accepted relating to corporate oversight of commissioning and the publication of commissioning intentions. Both of these were scheduled for completion by the end of the financial year and remain on track.

4.7 Commissioning and Procurement – Supplier Management

The recommendation related to the identification of key suppliers where business criticality may result in risk to service continuity. Corporate Management Board reported that Directorates already dynamically assess the risk associated with main contractors but undertook to include an assessment of risk of key failures within the next iteration of business continuity plans. This remains on schedule for completion by the end of the financial year as part of the scheduled refresh of those plans.

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 Effective Audit planning and monitoring are key contributors in ensuring that the Council's assets and interests are properly accounted for and safeguarded.

9. Recommendation

9.1 That Members note the update on the Healthy Organisation Report Action Plan.

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27 November 2018

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Background Documents

SWAP Healthy Organisation Review