

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

23 OCTOBER 2019

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP, PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS AND COMBINED OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Purpose of Report.

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Accept nominations and appoint Councillors to serve on the Overview and Scrutiny Committees due to recent changes affecting the Conservative Group, which does not affect the political balance of the Council;
- Approve a combined Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS);
- Approve a proposed programme of meetings to consider the MTFS.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority.

2.1 The meetings of Council provide a forum of participation and debate to progress the Corporate Plan and 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 The Council is required by legislation and the provisions of Part 4 of the Rules of Procedure (Council Procedure Rules) of the Constitution, to undertake arrangements which will continue to facilitate and carry out the decision making processes of the Authority. On 18 September 2019, the Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor T Giffard, notified the Monitoring Officer of changes to the membership of Overview and Scrutiny Committees affecting the Conservative Group. In conjunction with this, Councillor Giffard further proposed a change to the

Chairperson of Subject and Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1. The position of Chairperson of this Committee is currently occupied by Councillor C Webster appointed at the Annual Meeting of Council on 15 May 2019 in accordance with the Statutory Guidance made under section 75 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.

- 3.2 It is also proposed to establish a combined Overview and Scrutiny Committee to comprise the membership of the Council's Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees 1, 2 and 3 in order to consider the MTFS.
- 3.3 Changes are required to be made to the programme of meetings in relation to the scrutiny and approval of the MTFS. This has been due to the Council being notified by Welsh Government that the dates for both the provisional and final local government settlements for 2020-21 are likely to be received later than in previous years. This will therefore impact upon the submission of reports on the MTFS 2020-21 to 2023-24 to be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Cabinet and Council.

4. Current situation / proposal.

- 4.1 The changes proposed to Overview and Scrutiny Committee membership affecting the Conservative Group are as follows:

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1

Councillor C Webster to be replaced by Councillor T Giffard
Councillor L Walters to be replaced by Councillor K Rowlands

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2

Councillor K Rowlands to be replaced by Councillor C Webster

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3

Councillor S Vidal to be replaced by Councillor L Walters

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor C Webster to be replaced by Councillor K Rowlands

Town & Community Council Forum

Councillor A Pucella to be replaced by Councillor S Vidal
Councillor K Rowlands to be replaced by Councillor C Webster

- 4.2 Councillor Giffard has also proposed that he be appointed as Chairperson of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 in place of Councillor C Webster.
- 4.3 Council is requested to approve a combined Overview and Scrutiny Committee to comprise the membership of the Council's Corporate Overview and Scrutiny

Committee and Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees 1, 2 and 3 in order to consider the MTFS.

4.4 In relation to paragraph 3.3 above, the following changes to dates of Committees are required.

4.4.1 Due to the Council being notified by Welsh Government that the dates for both the provisional and final local government settlements for 2020/21 are likely to be received later than in previous years, the meetings of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees 1, 2 and 3 scheduled to take place on 2, 9 and 12 December 2019 need to be moved to take place during the week commencing 6 January 2020. Should there be further changes in the dates of the settlements, it is recommended that authority to change the dates of these Committees is delegated to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chief Executive, Section 151 Officer and Group Leaders.

4.4.2 It is proposed that an additional meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee take place in January 2020 and be a combined Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in paragraph 4.3 in order to consider the recommendations of all the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

4.4.3 Council is requested to note that the meeting of Cabinet scheduled to take place on 11 February to discuss the MTFS will now be held on 25 February 2020. The meeting of Council to discuss the MTFS will remain at 26 February 2020.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

5.1 The provisions and recommendations of the report accord with the Council's Constitution.

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 The change proposed to the Conservative Group Leader becoming Chairperson of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1, if agreed, will produce a saving of £4,000 in the Senior Salaries paid to Members.

9. Recommendations.

9.1 Council is recommended to:-

- (1) accept nominations and appoint the Councillors to serve on the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Town and Community Council Forum due to

recent changes affecting the Conservative Group as outlined in paragraph 4.1 of the report;

- (2) receive a nomination and elect the Chairperson of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 as outlined in paragraph 4.2 of the report;
- (3) approve the proposed changes to the programme of meetings as outlined in paragraph 4.4 of the report;
- (4) approve that should there be further changes in the dates of the final local government settlements for 2020/21, that authority to change the dates of these Committees is delegated to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chief Executive, Section 151 Officer and Group Leaders.
- (5) approve a combined Overview and Scrutiny Committee to comprise the membership of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees 1,2 and 3 in order to consider the MTFs;
- (6) note that the meeting of Cabinet scheduled to take place on 11th February 2020 will now be held on 25th February 2020.

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3 October 2019

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Background documents: None.