

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 SEPTEMBER 2020

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER – LEGAL, HR & REGULATORY SERVICES

#### CROSS-PARTY RECOVERY PANEL – PHASE 1 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a) present the Committee with the Phase 1 Findings and Recommendations of the Cross-Party Recovery Panel attached as **Appendix A** for endorsing by the Committee to be submitted to Cabinet on 15 September 2020, in order to feed into the realignment of the Authority's Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Corporate Plan;
- b) note the proposed next steps for the Recovery Panel for the selection of key areas to examine in greater depth beyond September 2020 and consider whether it wishes the work of the Panel to continue.

#### 2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:

1. **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
2. **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

#### 3. Background

3.1 On 23 March 2020 the UK Government imposed a nationwide lockdown in an effort to help minimise the spread of coronavirus. The Council has undergone significant change during this period, in that some services have been created, some services stopped and some staff have been redeployed.

- 3.2 The Chief Executive presented a report to the meeting of Cabinet on 30 June 2020 for a proposed approach to recovery planning from Covid-19. The recovery programme had the following 3 strands - Restart, Recover and Renew.
- 3.3 It was agreed at the meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13 July 2020 to establish a Cross-Party Recovery Panel. Membership of the Recovery Panel comprises the 12 Members of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee plus 4 additional Members: 2 Labour; 1 Independent Alliance and 1 Conservative, nominated by Group Leaders. The Panel was established with the aim of shaping, informing and advising Cabinet on the Council's recovery planning to form the basis of the recovery phase for the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 3.4 The Recovery Panel would select key areas for examination in greater depth and make recommendations to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for recommending to Cabinet on 15 September 2020, noting the extremely short timescales in order to feed into the realignment of the Authority's Medium Term Financial Strategy and Corporate Plan.

#### **4. Current situation/proposal**

- 4.1 The Panel met on six occasions during August and were supported by the Senior Democratic Officer – Scrutiny, two Scrutiny Officers and the Group Manager Legal & Democratic Services.
- 4.2 During its meetings, the Recovery Panel considered presentations from requested invitees including: Public Service Board (PSB) Team Officers; Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) Chief Executive, Operational Manager and a Community Navigator; the Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing and the Head of Adult Services; the Director of Bridgend County Care and Repair, and; the Head of Partnerships and Performance and Group Manager – Housing.
- 4.3 In Phase 1, the Cross-Party Recovery Panel has taken a structured approach to the selection of key areas from those identified for priority to feed into the recovery process and has identified key issues following examination.
- 4.4 It is recommended that the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider and endorse the findings and recommendations attached in **Appendix A** to be submitted to Cabinet on 15 September 2020 as part of the recovery process, in order to feed into the realignment of the Authority's Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Corporate Plan.
- 4.5 The recovery of the County Borough following the Covid-19 pandemic is a significant and a complex programme that has a key role to play in the economic vitality and community resilience of the county borough and its residents. The Public Services Board Community Impact Assessment (CIA) will be published shortly and will outline a detailed assessment of the current circumstances faced by our communities. It is acknowledged that the seismic shifts in our living, working and studying arrangements will have significant consequences, and unfortunately, may impact disproportionately on those who are already most disadvantaged in our communities. The Committee is recommended to consider whether it wishes the work of the Panel to continue beyond September. It is proposed that the Panel

consider the CIA once published and select any key areas that it wishes to further examine, and feedback any further recommendations to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for onward reporting to Cabinet.

- 4.6 Should the work of the Panel continue, there will be regular reviews of the work of the Panel to help ensure effectiveness and respond to any emerging issues. Any significant changes will be approved by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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

- 5.1 This item relates to the role of Cross-Party Recovery Panel as consultees in respect of the recovery process.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

- 6.1 There are no equality implications directly attached to this report.

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

- 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 and approval of this report will assist in the recovery process for both the short-term and in the long-term.
- Prevention - The consideration and approval of this report will assist in the Recovery process by approving and shaping preventative measures provided by Directorates to generate savings.
- Integration - The report supports all the wellbeing objectives.
- Collaboration - The consideration and approval of this report will assist in the recovery process by approving and shaping collaboration and integrated working.
- Involvement - Publication of the report ensures that the public and stakeholders can review the work that has been undertaken by Recovery Panel Members.

## **8. Financial implications**

- 8.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report.

## **9. Recommendations**

9.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- a) Endorse the Cross-Party Recovery Panel's Findings and Recommendations attached in **Appendix A** to be submitted to Cabinet on 15 September 2020 as part of the recovery process, in order to feed into the realignment of the Authority's Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Corporate Plan and;
- b) Note the next steps proposed for the Recovery Panel as outlined in Paragraph 4.5 above and consider whether it wishes the work of the Panel to continue beyond September.

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**1 September 2020**

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**Background Documents:** None