

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

22 JUNE 2021

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

CROSS-PARTY RECOVERY PANEL - RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present Cabinet with the recommendations of the Cross-Party Recovery Panel attached at **Appendix A** which have been endorsed by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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 (COSC) 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 Cross-Party Recovery Panel selected key areas for examination in greater depth and made recommendations to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for onward referral to Cabinet on 15 September 2020, noting the extremely short timescales in order to feed into the realignment of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and Corporate Plan going forward.
- 3.5 The Cross-Party Recovery Panel met on six occasions during August 2020 and were supported by the Senior Democratic Officer – Scrutiny, two Scrutiny Officers and the Group Manager Legal & Democratic Services.
- 3.6 During its meetings, the Cross-Party Recovery Panel considered presentations from requested invitees including: Public Services 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 Partnership Services and Group Manager – Housing.
- 3.7 The Cross-Party Recovery Panel had taken a structured approach to the selection of key areas from those identified for priority to feed into the recovery process and had identified key issues following examination.
- 3.8 On 7 September 2020 the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report on the findings of the Cross-Party Recovery Panel and approved that the recommendations of the Panel should be forwarded to Cabinet as part of the recovery process, in order to feed into the realignment of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Corporate Plan.
- 3.9 The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee also considered the next steps for the Recovery Panel and agreed that the Panel would meet following the Public Services Board Community Impact Assessment (CIA) being made available for consideration as an assessment of the current circumstances faced by communities, significant consequences and possibly disproportionate impacts on those who are already most disadvantaged. It was noted that any further findings and recommendations will be referred to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for onward reporting to Cabinet.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The Cross-Party Recovery Panel met on 7 December 2020, considered the PSB Community impact assessment, the Cabinet response to the Phase 1 Recommendations and selected Housing and Homelessness as a key area for examination in greater depth. The Panel met on 11 March and 14 May 2021 and heard from invitees from: Community Housing Cymru; the Chartered Institute of Housing Cymru; the Authority's Housing Team and the Shared Regulatory Service Neighbourhood Service Team.

4.2 The Cabinet's response to the Recovery Panel's Phase 1 recommendations was reported to the Panel and the meeting of COSC on 2 December 2020, and an updated progress report reported to the Panel and the meeting of COSC on 9 June 2021.

4.3 The Cross-Party Recovery Panel made its recommendations on Housing and Homelessness at its meeting on 14th May 2021. The COSC endorsed the recommendations at its meeting on 9th June 2021, as attached in **Appendix A**.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 This item relates to the role of Overview & Scrutiny Committees as consultees in respect of the recovery process.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of 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 well-being 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. Recommendation

- 9.1 Cabinet is requested to consider the recommendations of the Cross-Party Recovery Panel (**Appendix A**) which have been endorsed by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of the recovery process.

Contact officer: Meryl Lawrence – Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny

Telephone: 01656 643515

Email: scrutiny@bridgend.gov.uk

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

Background Documents: None