

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

15 SEPTEMBER 2021

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present Council with a review of work undertaken by Overview & Scrutiny over a two year period 2019/20 and 2020/21.

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**:
- **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.
 - **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.
 - **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 The Overview and Scrutiny Committees oversee the decision making of the Cabinet Members and support the work of the Cabinet and the Council. They enable stakeholders to have a greater say in Council matters by holding public meetings into matters of local concern. These lead to reports and recommendations which advise the Cabinet and the Council as a whole on its policies, budget and service delivery.
- 3.2 Within their Terms of Reference, Overview and Scrutiny Committees:
- a) review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions;

- b) 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;
- c) consider any matter affecting the County Borough or its inhabitants; and
- d) exercise the right to call-in, for reconsideration, decisions made by or on behalf of the Cabinet but not yet implemented.

3.3 Scrutiny is required to submit an Annual Report to Council with a review of how the function has operated for the previous period. The review is a useful tool for reviewing the effectiveness of Scrutiny, providing an opportunity to reflect properly on how Scrutiny has operated, the challenges and outcomes. The report provides commentary on scrutiny activity for the period.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the Scrutiny Annual Report at its meeting held on 1 September 2021, which is attached as **Appendix A** for submission to Council. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the report covers a two year period and provides detail on the challenges and outcomes for Scrutiny Committees and Panels for the period, as well as identifying some areas of focus for improvement to ensure Scrutiny continues to develop and achieve positive outcomes for the residents of Bridgend.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 The work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Council's Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental wellbeing in the County Borough of Bridgend.

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 of this report will assist in the continuous improvement in the delivery of Scrutiny function from the short-term to the long-term.

- Prevention – the production of the report allows Members and the public to reflect on the outcomes achieved over the period and for outcomes and learning to be fed back into future scrutiny improvement and development.
- Integration - the Annual Report supports the wellbeing objectives.
- Collaboration – the scrutiny function is discharged in collaboration with Council Officers, partner organisations, Scrutiny Chairs and Members.
- Involvement – publication of the Annual Report raises awareness of the work of Scrutiny, the challenges and outcomes, thereby increasing potential involvement of the public and other stakeholders.

8. Financial implications

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

9. Recommendations

9.1 Council is recommended to note the contents of the Scrutiny Annual Report attached as **Appendix A**.

9 September 2021

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Background documents: None.