

Management response form



Report title: Review of Decision-Making Arrangements. Bridgend County Borough Council

Completion date:

Document reference:

Ref	Recommendation	Management response Please set out here relevant commentary on the planned actions in response to the recommendations	Completion date Please set out by when the planned actions will be complete	Responsible officer (title)
R1	The Council should ensure that its published forward work programme for committees is accessible, comprehensive, and covers a longer time frame than the current 4-month period to give more opportunity for robust pre-decision scrutiny and provide greater transparency around the decision-making process for both Members and the public.	The forward work programme will be extended to 6 months. Corporate Management Board will be encouraged to forward plan items for consideration over a longer period. The FWP for Cabinet, Council and Scrutiny will be published and updated.	December 2024	Kelly Watson

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R2	The Council should ensure that its scheme of delegation is updated , to mitigate the risk of decisions being taken without the proper authority.	The scheme is reviewed and updated regularly. Changes will be made to reflect changes to Cabinet portfolios and will be reported to Cabinet on 24 th September 2024 for approval. Should Cabinet approve the amendments, the Scheme will be published on the Council's website.	October 2024	Kelly Watson
R3	The Council should ensure that there is clarity on the role of scrutiny in the decision-making process. The lack of clarity on the role of the O&S committees, particularly in relation to pre-decision scrutiny is limiting O&S committees' ability to contribute fully and effectively to the decision-making process.	Further work will be undertaken with elected Members and senior officers to explain the importance of pre decision scrutiny. Training will be provided on the role and remit of the committees. A scrutiny protocol has been drafted and will be presented to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny for approval.	December 2024	Kelly Watson

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R4	The Council should ensure that it provides greater transparency regarding the remit of the different O&S committees . Naming the O&S committees 1, 2 and 3 does not help with transparency of the remit of the committees, particularly from a public perspective. It is also a potential barrier to encouraging public involvement in the scrutiny process.	There is cross party support for changing the names of the committees. Proposals will be shared with Members prior to formal approval at Council and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The terms of reference will be updated if necessary and this will align with the training being proposed for recommendation R3	December 2024	Kelly Watson
R5	The Council should ensure that Members receive, and are encouraged to access, a relevant training programme to ensure they are well equipped to understand and undertake their role. This should include focussed training for specific roles, e.g. charring skills.	The Council has an Elected Member Learning and Development Strategy and the Democratic Services Committee receive regular reports and will review the current programme to ensure it remains relevant. Members will continue to be canvassed on training requirements and where appropriate these will be incorporated into the training programme. They have recently been sent an online training survey. Standards	December 2024	Kelly Watson

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		Committee will monitor training completion and where appropriate will link in with Group Leaders to promote completion.		