

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11 MAY 2015

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – LEGAL & REGULATORY SERVICES

NOMINATION TO STANDING BUDGET RESEARCH AND EVALUATION PANEL

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek nominations for the Budget Research and Evaluation Panel in line with the Corporate Resources & Improvement Overview & Scrutiny Committee's recommendations made as part of the 2014/15 budget setting process.

2. Connection to the Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The key improvement objectives identified in the Corporate Plan 2013-2017 have been embodied in the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes. The Corporate Improvement Objectives were adopted by Council on 19 February 2014 and formally set out the improvement objectives that the Council will seek to implement between 2013 and 2017. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees engage in review and development of plans, policy or strategies that support the Corporate Themes.

3. Background

- 3.1 In considering the challenges associated with continued budget reductions, Members of the 2014 /15 Budget Research and Evaluation Panel (BREP) recognised the need for a 'whole Council' response to be adopted in managing anticipated cuts to services against a backdrop of increasing demand, public sector reform and the challenging financial outlook.
- 3.2 It was consequently recommended that the BREP continue in its current form as a standing working group to enable Members to feed in community intelligence gained from their representative role and engage in shaping future service provision.

4. Current Situation

- 4.1 The BREP has previously been set up on an annual basis and focussed on examining the annual draft budget proposals to aid the scrutiny process. In contrast, the standing BREP whilst examining annual draft budget proposals, also undertakes informal consideration of proposals related to medium and longer term reviews linked with the Council's Strategic Change Management Programme. It seeks to assist management in the delivery of the plans to support change and the Medium Term Financial Strategy by fully utilising its community representational role to inform policy changes and provide challenge and the BREP will develop its terms of reference and methodology within that function.

Membership and Relationship to Overview and Scrutiny Committees

- 4.2 The Standing BREP will be constituted from the membership of the Corporate Resources and Improvement Overview & Scrutiny Committee, with the Chair and one other nominated Member from each Overview and Scrutiny Committee. A further nomination is also being proposed as a reserve, to try to alleviate any potential impact resulting from any changes to the Committee membership at the Annual General Meeting of Council.
- 4.3 In order to achieve the necessary focus and analytical depth, good practice would recommend that the total membership of the Panel be no more than 10 Members. The Chair of the BREP should be nominated by the members of the BREP itself at its first meeting.
- 4.4 The standing Panel's Forward Work Programme (FWP) should be informed by the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and Strategic Change Management Programme.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

- 5.1 The report has no direct effect but seeks to broadly support the Authority in the development of future services.

6. Equalities Impact

- 6.1 There are no implications in this report.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 None

8. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- Nominate the Chair and one other Member of the Committee onto the standing Budget Research & Evaluation Panel.

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Background Documents:

Bridgend County Borough Council Constitution
Part II of the Local Government Act 2000: Executive Arrangements