

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO COUNCIL

16 JULY 2014

### REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE - LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE FOSTERING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

##### **1. Purpose of Report.**

- 1.1 To inform Council of the proposals for the development for a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Panel which will consider how community resilience might be fostered in local communities, particularly in response to the welfare reform agenda, and to seek Council's approval for three scrutiny committee members and one reserve member to sit on the Joint Panel.

##### **2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities**

The key improvement objectives identified in the Corporate Plan 2013-2017 have been embodied in the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes. The amended Corporate Improvement Objectives adopted by Council on 3 April 2013 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 Since 2008, Welsh Government has administered the Scrutiny Development Fund (SDF). The SDF has allowed local authorities to submit bids in order to undertake projects that contribute to the development of Overview and Scrutiny practice across Wales.
- 3.2 In 2009, Bridgend successfully bid for funding for two projects; the development of the Scrutiny Timebank website, which has since been incorporated into the Centre for Public Scrutiny's Scrutiny Connect website, and funding to commission additional research to support the work of the Homelessness Research and Evaluation Panel that ran from 2009-2011.
- 3.3 Since that time, Bridgend has not been in a position to submit further bids. In acknowledgment of the considerable resources required to develop, submit and deliver a project, officers have been working in conjunction with officers from other local authorities to develop a proposal.
- 3.4 As a result of this work, officers from Swansea, Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend have developed a bid in relation to Fostering Community Resilience. The Project Initiation Document (PID) is attached at Appendix A.

3.5 It is proposed that Swansea will be the lead authority. It is also proposed that the Panel will work with Governance International, who have expertise in the field of community resilience and co-production.

3.6 The PID has been signed off by the Leader and Chief Exec and will shortly be submitted to Welsh Government for their approval.

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

4.1 As set out in the PID, Council is asked to nominate three members and one reserve member to sit on the Joint Panel. Fostering community resilience is an issue that cuts across the remits of all committees, so nominees could come from any committee. However, it is suggested that the nominees should include at least one member of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Community Renewal and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee due to the likelihood that the Panel's investigation will have a particular focus on their respective remits.

4.2 Whilst there is no requirement for the Panel to be politically balanced, it is suggested that it would be beneficial for the Panel to have cross party representation. Therefore it is suggested that the nominees be as follows:

- Two Labour members of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee, one of whom should be the Chairperson.
- One Labour member of the Community Renewal and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- One Independent Alliance member from any Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- One Independent Annibynwyr member as reserve member.

4.3 It is proposed that the Panel will meet on ten occasions over the next twelve months. Dates and locations for the meetings have not yet been set but it is likely that the first meeting will take place in Swansea, as they are the lead authority.

4.4 The detail of the Panel's work has deliberately not been formalized at this stage, in order to allow members of the Panel the opportunity to take part in the process. However, it is anticipated that the Panel's final report will provide well researched, publicly tested and achievable proposals for fostering resilience in our local communities.

#### **5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.**

5.1 None.

#### **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 No equality impact assessment has been undertaken at this time. If the Panel decides to focus their investigation on specific groups who fall under the remit of equality legislation, an assessment will be undertaken.

## **7. Financial Implications.**

7.1 The commitment required from BCBC is minimal and will be met from within existing resources.

## **8. Recommendation.**

8.1 That the Council nominates four members to take part in the Fostering Community Resilience Joint Scrutiny Panel, pending approval of funding from Welsh Government.

**Andrew Jolley,**  
**Assistant Chief Executive – Legal & Regulatory Services**  
**3 June 2014**

**Contact Officer:** Rachel Harries  
Senior Democratic Services Officer – Scrutiny

**Telephone:** (01656) 643696

**E-mail:** rachel.harries@bridgend.gov.uk

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

## **Background documents**

None.