

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 JANUARY 2016

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a) present the items due to be considered at the Committee's meeting to be held on 5 April 2016;
- b) present a list of further potential items for prioritisation by Committee.

2. Connection to 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 amended Corporate Improvement Objectives adopted by Council on 25 February 2015 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 At its meeting on 19 June 2015, the Partnerships and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee determined its Annual Forward Work Programme for 2015-16.

4. Current Situation / Proposal

Meetings of the Partnership and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4.1 The table below lists the item to be considered and the invitees due to attend in respect of the subsequent meeting of the Committee to be held on 5 April 2016.

Topic	Invitees	Specific Information Requested	Research to be Undertaken by the Overview & Scrutiny Unit
Public Engagement	Councillor C E Smith, Cabinet Member - Regeneration and Economic Development Andrew Jolley - Assistant Chief Executive Gary Jones - Head of Democratic Services	Progress on the development of an internal mechanism to better enable members of the public to engage in scrutiny activity.	tbc
Depot Rationalisation	Councillor C E Smith, Cabinet Member - Regeneration and	To provide an update to the Committee on	tbc

	Economic Development Zak Shell, head of Neighbourhood Services	the progress of the Depot Rationalisation Project. - This item has been moved from the CEL FWP due to a change of focus.	
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4.2 The table below lists potential items which are put to the Committee for reprioritisation as appropriate.

Topic	Proposed Date	Specific Information Requested	Research to be Undertaken by the Overview & Scrutiny Unit
Information Report - Local Service Board Scrutiny Panel Feedback	To be confirmed	The remit of the Committee includes the consideration of the performance of Bridgend's Local Service Board (LSB), in accordance with guidance and to achieve this Local Service Board Scrutiny Panel has been set up in order to scrutinise the LSB's performance. Committee are to receive feedback reports annually.	tbc

Corporate Parenting

4.4 Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of a local authority towards looked after children and young people. This is a legal responsibility given to local authorities by the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004. The role of the Corporate Parent is to seek for children in public care the outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. The Council as a whole is the 'corporate parent' therefore all Members have a level of responsibility for the children and young people looked after by Bridgend.¹

4.5 In this role, it is suggested that Members consider how the services within the remit of their Committee affects children in care and care leavers, and in what way the Committee can therefore assist in these areas.

4.6 Scrutiny Champions can greatly support the Committee in this by advising them of the ongoing work of the Cabinet-Committee and particularly any decisions or changes which they should be aware of as Corporate Parents.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

5.1 The work of the Partnerships and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the 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.

¹ Welsh Assembly Government and Welsh Local Government Association 'If this were my child... A councillor's guide to being a good corporate parent to children in care and care leavers', June 2009

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 None

7. Financial Implications

7.1 None.

8. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note the topics due to be considered at the meeting of the Committee for 5 April 2016 and confirm if it requires any additional specific information to be provided by the invitees listed or the Overview & Scrutiny Unit;
- (ii) Revisit and consider the list of future potential items for the Committees Forward Work Programme and reprioritise as the Committees feels appropriate.

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Background Documents: None