

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Cabinet Meeting: 30th April 2018

Report of the Leader

Strategic Collaborative Working Initiatives Update

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update for Cabinet on the Council's strategic collaborative working initiatives.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet considers the strategic collaborative working initiatives that are in place to support the delivery and development of Council services and the Council's well-being outcomes and objectives.
2. That this report be circulated by e-mail to all Vale of Glamorgan Council elected members and members of the Public Services Board for information.
3. That further updates are provided to Cabinet on a quarterly basis, and in accordance with the forward work programme.

Reasons for the Recommendations

1. To provide Cabinet with an overview of strategic collaborative working initiatives.
2. To provide elected members and strategic partners with an overview of strategic collaborative working initiatives.
3. To provide regular updates for Cabinet.

Background

2. The Council has long recognised the value that collaborative working has in providing efficient and effective services to residents.
3. In recent years, collaborative working activity has increased in pace in response to the challenging financial climate and also in recognition of the value that working in partnership to share skills, expertise and experience can have in tackling increasingly complex issues. These activities also contribute to the Council's well-being outcomes and objectives.
4. This report provides Cabinet with an overview of the strategic collaborative working initiatives that are currently underway. These initiatives are regularly reported to the Council's Corporate Management Team to ensure maximum value is derived from this work and appropriate oversight is given to this area of Council business.

Relevant Issues and Options

5. The Compendium ([Appendix A](#)) is maintained to enable oversight of the strategic level collaborative working activity the Council is involved in and provides a description of the various initiatives that are underway. The Compendium illustrates how each element of collaborative working aligns with the Council's Well-being Outcomes which are contained in the Corporate Plan. The Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act indicates that collaboration is one of the key ways of working to support sustainable development and meet the Council's duty under the Act. Collaboration is also one of the alternative models of service delivery which is considered as part of the Reshaping Services programme and it is envisaged that this approach will play a key role in the way services are delivered in the future.
6. Details of the partner organisations, governance arrangements and scrutiny details are provided for information, together with a progress update for each initiative. The compendium also identifies whether the initiative is part of a local, regional or national arrangement. This recognises that some collaborative working activity has been locally developed and some relate to regional or pan-Wales developments.
7. Cabinet last received an update on the compendium on 22nd January 2018. Cabinet Members will note that the content of the compendium (Appendix A) is not an exhaustive list of all collaborative working that is underway in the Council. Many operational level collaborative efforts support both projects and 'business as usual' activity and these are monitored and managed within individual service areas.
8. Following the last update received by Cabinet, three initiatives have been removed from the Compendium.
9. The Children and Young Peoples Partnership Board (CYPP) was an overarching, multi-agency body that provided planning and service decisions relating to children and young people. The Financial Inclusion Strategic Partnership (FIG), was formerly one of three anti-poverty partnerships aligned to the Public Services Board's (PSB) Community Strategy Delivery Plan 2014 - 2018. Both of these collaborations have been removed due to on-going work to implement the PSB's Well-being Plan via other forums.
10. The Well-being Plan was agreed by Cabinet on 19th February 2018 and sets out four well-being objectives through which the PSB will work to improve well-being across the Vale of Glamorgan. Two of the PSB's objectives directly relate to the previous arenas of work of the CYPP and FIG. The PSB has an objective to 'Reduce poverty

and tackle inequalities linked to deprivation' and another objective to 'Give children the best start in life'. Work is currently taking place with partners to determine the most appropriate structures and mechanisms through which to deliver these objectives and the steps that have been set out within the Plan. As part of these discussions the decision has been taken to disband the CYPP and FIG; however, through the delivery of the Plan, the focus of these groups will remain a priority for both the PSB and the Council. As work progresses to formalise the implementation of the Well-being Plan, it is likely that Task and Finish groups will be established and workshops arranged with relevant people to address the specific issues that have been highlighted through the PSB's assessment of local well-being and set out within its Well-being Plan.

11. The Strengthening the Connections Social Services project which was in place to support the implementation of the Social Services and Well-being Act has also been removed from the Compendium. Cabinet agreed on 6th November 2017 the proposals to establish a regional Social Care Workforce Development Training unit to be led by Cardiff Council. In response to the demands and scale of transformation necessitated by the Act, the regional training unit will ensure a consistent and robust approach to training and development across the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff. Going forward, the delivery of regional training will be reported through the Delivering Transformation Grant and the Social Care Workforce Development Programme Grant projects that remain on the Compendium.
12. One new strategic initiative has been added to the compendium. This initiative is to reflect the tentative consideration of a collaborative arrangement with Bridgend County Borough Council relating to Health and Safety services. A project team has been assembled of officers from both Councils and initial scoping work to inform a business case is underway, exploring the potential benefits of working together for this service. Once developed, the business case will be reported initially to the Council's Corporate Management Team for consideration and, if required, to Cabinet in due course.

Collaboration and Local Government Reform

13. The Welsh Government Green Paper consultation document, Strengthening Local Government: Delivering for People was issued on 20th March 2018. The Green Paper sets out the Welsh Government's statement of intent about the future of Local Government in Wales. Specifying a need to create larger, stronger authorities to secure the financial viability of Councils, ensure the sustainability of services and provide a platform for transformation and delivery and outcomes for people.
14. The Green Paper sets out three options for local authority mergers. The first of these options is voluntary mergers. This option would enable local authorities to come forward with merger proposals if they are within a specified future footprint which define new authority areas. The second option is for a phased approach with early adopters merging first, followed by other authorities. This option makes provision for local authorities to merge by 2026, in line with a specified future footprint, but would also enable some authorities to move more quickly with new authorities established by 2022. The third option is for a single comprehensive merger programme. This proposes local authority mergers in line with a specified footprint by 2022. Within the Paper indicative new authority areas have been set out with the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff Local Authorities identified as a possible new authority area. The Green Paper outlines ten consultation questions for consideration and further reports on the

local government reform agenda will be brought to Cabinet for consideration in due course.

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

15. There are no financial implications arising as a direct result of this report.

Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

16. Collaborative working supports the delivery of Council services and is one of the five ways of working identified by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)

17. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

Crime and Disorder Implications

18. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report. However individual initiatives contribute to this agenda as detailed in Appendix A.

Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)

19. There are no direct equal opportunities implications associated with this report. However, these issues are considered as part of the establishment and ongoing operation of any collaborative working initiatives.

Corporate/Service Objectives

20. Collaborative working initiatives contribute towards the achievement of the Council's Well-being Outcomes contained in the Corporate Plan.

Policy Framework and Budget

21. This is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet.

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

22. Due to the corporate nature of this report, no ward member consultation has been undertaken. The development of individual initiatives is subject to appropriate consultation activity.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

23. The relevant Committee for this report is Corporate Performance and Resources. Individual initiatives are subject to the Scrutiny of the Committees as identified in Appendix A.

Background Papers

3rd April 2017, Cabinet Report, ["The Council's Response to the White Paper Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed"](#)

Contact Officer

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Officers Consulted

Corporate Management Team

Responsible Officer:

Managing Director