



## **AUDIT COMMITTEE- 9TH DECEMBER 2015**

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS WORK PROGRAMME**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update Members on Caerphilly County Borough Council's collaboration and partnership work programme. This report is for information only.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Following recommendations made by the Wales Audit Office on the partnership and collaborative work of the Council, an exercise commenced in October 2013 to identify the Council's partner organisations, significant partnerships and collaborations. This led to Cabinet in November 2014 agreeing a Collaboration and Partnership Protocol with twelve month action plan for embedding a structure for partnership working (July 2014 to June 2015) and a Partnership Governance Toolkit.
- 2.2 All actions within the 12 month partnership action plan have been completed.

### **3. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 3.1 Compliance with recommendations of the Wales Audit Office under the Council's Improvement Plan, and requirements of the Annual Governance Review Panel on partnerships and collaborative working of the Council.
- 3.2 The policy direction from the Welsh Government through the White Paper: Reforming Local Government, and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 for greater partnership and collaborative work.

### **4. THE REPORT**

- 4.1 The Collaboration and Partnership Protocol with the twelve month action plan (July 2014 to June 2015) has now been fully completed resulting in:
- three reviews of the partnership and collaboration list undertaken through Heads of Service, with the updated list placed on the intranet under the corporate governance link for continued staff reference;
  - spot governance checks as directed by Corporate Governance Review Panel undertaken for the following partnerships and collaborations: Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee, Monmouthshire Farm School Collaboration, Missing Children Collaboration, Welsh Rugby Unit Partnership, Local Investment Collaboration Fund. These spot checks raised no issues for concern.

- 4.2 In lessons learnt through implementing the partnership and collaboration work programme it is not evident whether the Partnership Governance Toolkit is being used. Under the guidance contained in the toolkit partnerships are expected to do annual self assessment health checks. This could be something that could be checked, together with the extent to which the guidance is being used, in future spot governance checks of partnerships/collaborations.
- 4.3 The quarterly reviews through the Heads of Service are working well, with all Heads of Service and their staff engaging fully with the reviews. It is considered that CCBC now has a robust list of partnerships/collaborations with possibly just a few omissions. Over time the more reviews undertaken the greater the validity of this list will be.
- 4.4 The latest review of partnerships/collaborations took place in September 2015. This saw little change to the list, with only one new partnership identified - *the Safer Gwent Regional Partnership*.
- 4.5 The recent review reveals that the Council has 39 formal partnerships, 22 collaborations, and 148 partner organisations. The Council is the collaborative lead in 8 of the ventures (see Appendix 1 for Caerphilly County Borough Council Partnerships Overview October 2015)
- 4.6 To date the process of updating the partnership/collaboration list is working well. Brief data is also collated on all partnerships/collaborations. To ensure partnerships/collaborations are performing well the Corporate Governance Review Panel will continue to select collaborations/partnerships for a review by Internal Audit.
- 4.7 The partnership and collaboration work programme is in keeping with the policy direction from the Welsh Government through the Local Government White Paper – *Reforming Local Government Power to the People*, and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 for greater partnership and collaborative work.

## **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Council's partnerships and collaborative working take into consideration the Equalities Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011, and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Brief information on funding arrangements in place for partnership and collaborative working by the Council has been collated.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Significant staff time is invested in partnership and collaborative working by the Council.

## **8. CONSULTATIONS**

- 8.1 The contents of this report have been subject to consultation with the officers listed under Section 11 of the report.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1.1 For the Audit Committee to note the contents of this report.

## **10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 The report is for information only.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 Local Government Act 2000, and the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (Part 2) Community Strategies.

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Appendix 1 Caerphilly County Borough Council Partnerships Overview October 2015