



AUDIT COMMITTEE - 11TH DECEMBER 2013

SUBJECT: CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES & SECTION 151 OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members on work being undertaken to meet both the requirements of the Wales Audit Office, and of the Annual Governance Review Panel on the partnership and collaborative working of the Council.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Work has commenced with the Senior Management Teams at the Council on addressing the following Wales Audit Office recommendations:
- P1 Improving how the Council monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of partnerships to ensure they are contributing to delivery of corporate priorities;
 - P2 Ensure there are robust and effective governance arrangements in place when creating integrated services and collaborations which are subject to regular evaluation of their impact.
- 2.2 The work will be concluded by February 2014, with a final report coming to the Audit Committee in March 2014.

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.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Work is currently being undertaken through the Improving Governance Programme Board and the Annual Governance Review Panel to deliver on the Wales Audit Office (WAO) recommendations under the Council's Improvement Plan. The WAO recommendations are:
- P1 Improving how the Council monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of partnerships to ensure they are contributing to delivery of corporate priorities;
 - P2 Ensure there are robust and effective governance arrangements in place when creating integrated services and collaborations which are subject to regular evaluation of their impact.

- 4.2 To generate an up to date list of both key partners, and partnerships an email was sent to key contacts across the Council work areas involved with partnership working, which has identified 272 partners, excluding partnership links of a commercial nature.
- 4.3 Senior Management Teams have been consulted on the list generated, and are currently defining their most important partnership arrangements in order to:
1. Provide a brief synopsis of the partnership work for the directorate
 2. Provide for the partnership working reporting and governance mechanisms at the Council
 3. Provide for the partnership working any monitoring and evaluation arrangements to assess the effectiveness of partnerships to ensure they are contributing to the delivery of corporate priorities
 4. Details of any Service Level Agreement in place for progressing partnership work/or any grants awarded.
 5. Approximate cash annual value of working in partnership.
- 4.4 The deadline for acquiring the information is Friday 10th January 2014, with a report on the findings going to a January Improving Governance Programme Board meeting. A final report will be presented to the Audit Committee in March 2014, with the intention of demonstrating that enough progress has been made to satisfy both the Wales Audit Office and the Audit Committee.

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 The work will attempt to draw some initial costings on partnership and collaborative working by the Council.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

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

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 As noted under consultees.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 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

Author: Jackie Dix – Policy & Research Manager

Consultees: Nicole Scammell - Acting Director of Corporate Services & S151

Dan Perkins – Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Richard M Harris - Internal Audit Manager

Alessandra Veronese – Programme Manager