



AUDIT COMMITTEE - 10TH JUNE 2015

SUBJECT: CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS UPDATE

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 An information report to brief Members on work being undertaken around Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) Collaboration and Partnership Protocol and Action Plan for Delivery from March 2015 to May 2015.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Since last reporting to the Audit Committee on 11th March 2015 the second quarterly review has been undertaken of the CCBC partnership and collaboration list following its initial completion in 2014. The number of CCBC formal partnerships has decreased by 1 totalling at 38 partnerships, and collaborations have decreased by 2 totalling at 26 collaborations. CCBC leads in 8 of the collaborations.
- 2.2 A partnership governance check has been conducted for the Local Investment Fund Collaboration on 17th March 2015, which raised no issues for concern.

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 A review of the CCBC partnership and collaboration list has taken place through Heads of Service from April to May 2015. Nine Heads of Service reported no change to the list for their service area. Three Heads of Service reported a change: the Gwent Trading Standards Project has ended with a decision taken not to proceed; the Job Centre Plus (JCP) Flexible Service Delivery Points Partnership has come to an end as JCP have amended their digital offer and are removing Flexible Service Delivery Points from library settings as part of this change, and the Caerphilly Passport Scheme ceased in March with the end of European funding.
- 4.2 The next review of the CCBC partnership and collaboration list through Heads of Service will be undertaken in June 2015.
- 4.3 The governance check of the Local Investment Fund Collaboration revealed no issues of concern. The project, now in its closure phase, will be concluding June 2015. In terms of

financial management, Rhondda Cynon Taf Council has been the project lead for this European funded project, but officers in CCBC Regeneration and Planning have worked with colleagues in Finance to ensure that project spend is both appropriate and in line with all laid down financial procedures, both in terms of CCBC procedures and those required by the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) and European Union (EU).

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Information on the funding arrangements in place for partnership and collaborative working by the Council is contained in background documentation, leading to the generation of the CCBC partnership and collaboration list, which can be made available for Members.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

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

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The write up of the governance check of the Local Investment Fund Collaboration has been verified with the lead officer. The CCBC partnership and collaboration list is updated in consultation with Heads of Service.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 For Members to note the contents of the report.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The report is for information only, updating Members on progress with implementing the Partnership Protocol 12 month action plan for delivery up to June 2015.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Act 2000, and the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (Part 2) Community Strategies, and Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Author: Jackie Dix – Policy & Research Manager
Consultees: Nicole Scammell - Acting Director of Corporate Services & S151
Colin Jones - Head of Performance and Property Services
Gail Williams – Interim Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Richard M Harris - Internal Audit Manager
Alessandra Veronese - E-Government Team Leader