

# **The Vale of Glamorgan Council**

## **Cabinet Meeting: 23 January, 2017**

### **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 elected members and members of the Public Services Board.
3. That further updates are provided to Cabinet.

##### **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, partly 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

### Vale of Glamorgan Collaboration Compendium

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 has been reviewed in the past quarter and is now presented to illustrate how each area of collaborative working aligns with the Council's Well-being Outcomes which are contained in the Corporate Plan. The Well-being of Future Generations (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, building on the success of the Internal Audit arrangements with Bridgend Council, the Joint Education Consortium and the Shared Regulatory Service with Cardiff and Bridgend Councils.
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 relates to regional or pan-Wales developments.
7. 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.

### Collaboration and Local Government Reform

8. Cabinet will note the developments being made by Welsh Government on the issues relating to local government reform. In his statement the Minister advised that instead of forced mergers, there will be an increased emphasis on regional working, with consultative work underway. The Council is contributing to the development of Welsh Government proposals in this area. The Council maintains that an agile approach to collaboration that is appropriate to local circumstance and ensures the best outcomes for residents of the Vale of Glamorgan should be continued. As evidenced by the content of the compendium this is something that the Council has a good track record of achieving. As this agenda develops, further reports will be brought to Cabinet for consideration.

### Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

9. There are no direct resource implications arising from this report. However, collaborative working can (and has been demonstrated to) have the ability to deliver financial savings and improved services for residents. Before entering into collaborative arrangements, the Council ensures that appropriate consideration is given to resource implications and that correct processes (such as due diligence on business cases) are followed.

### Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

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

## **Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)**

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

## **Crime and Disorder Implications**

12. 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)**

13. 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**

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

## **Policy Framework and Budget**

15. This is a matter for Executive decision.

## **Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)**

16. 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**

17. 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**

None.

## **Contact Officer**

Tom Bowring  
Operational Manager, Policy & Performance

## **Officers Consulted**

Corporate Management Team

## **Responsible Officer:**

Managing Director