

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015-2016**

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

29TH JULY, 2015

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF
LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

Agenda Item No.4
LOCAL SERVICE BOARD (LSB) SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with the opportunity to consider the role and membership of the Local Service Board (LSB) Scrutiny Working Group.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. Members agree to the re-establishment of LSB Scrutiny Working Group.
- 2.2. Members agree that the Terms of Reference of the Scrutiny Working Group are revised, in order for the group to undertake the functions as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act (*not yet commenced*).
- 2.3. Due to the changing focus of the work of the Local Service Board, Members agree that the Board is re-established in September 2015 to understand the new approach and agree a revised Terms of Reference.
- 2.4. Members agree the proposed Membership and appoint relevant Members to the LSB Scrutiny Working Group.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. The LSB Scrutiny Working Group was initially formed with the aim of fulfilling the requirements of a successful bid which had been made to the Scrutiny Development Fund for funding to scrutinise one of the Local Service Board's (LSB) priority areas, namely 'Tackling Domestic Abuse'. Following completion of this project phase, it was agreed by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee at the meeting held on 28th July 2011 that the Working Group should continue in its role of providing a vehicle for scrutiny of the Local Service Board.
- 3.2. In June 2012, the Welsh Government published its guidance on integrating partnerships and plans "Shared Purpose – Shared Delivery" which placed a requirement on local authorities and their partners to produce Single Integrated Plans to replace existing statutory partnership plans and strategies. Given the collaborative leadership role of LSBs, the Welsh Government considered them to be the appropriate forum for formulating and reviewing Single Integrated Plans. The guidance also stated that local authorities should have in place effective scrutiny processes to ensure local democratic accountability for partnership actions.

- 3.3. Following agreement and publication of "Delivering Change" in April 2013, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that the LSB Scrutiny Working Group would fulfil the role of challenging the Local Service Board on delivery against the priorities within the Single Integrated Plan, taking the outcomes of 'Safety', 'Health' and 'Prosperity' in turn, in line with the arrangements of the Local Service Board to review progress against an outcome per meeting.
- 3.4. This approach was piloted during 2013/14 within both the Local Service Board and LSB Scrutiny Working Group. However, emerging legislation and the first Annual Review of the Single Integrated Plan (published during June 2014) prompted a change in focus for the Local Service Board and LSB Scrutiny Working Group.

4. ROLE OF THE LSB SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP

- 4.1. Under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act, Local Service Boards are to become statutory bodies, and will be known as Public Service Boards. Part 4 (Section 35) of the Act makes provisions for scrutiny of Public Service Boards, namely that the Local Authority's Overview and Scrutiny Committee has power -

"a) to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the public services board for the local authority area in the exercise of its functions;

b) to review or scrutinise the board's governance arrangements;

c) to make reports or recommendations to the board with respect tot he board's function or governance arrangements;

d) to consider such matters relating to the board as the Welsh Ministers may refer to it and report to the Welsh Ministers accordingly;

e) to carry out such other functions in relation to the board as are imposed on it by the Act."

- 4.2. Members will recall that at the Annual Meeting of the Council held on the 20th May, 2015, it was agreed that the current arrangements of the LSB Scrutiny Working Group comprising both elected Members and Partners would continue to meet as a Working Group of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It is proposed that, given the previous work programme of the LSB Scrutiny Working Group, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree that the Working Group is re-established to fulfil the functions set out in paragraph 4.1 above, on their behalf and the Terms of Reference are amended accordingly.
- 4.3. As part of preparation for commencement of the Act (thought to be April 2016), the Local Service Board has also agreed to a new way of working in partnership, based on geographical areas of focus and with the overall priority of 'Skills and Jobs'. Cabinet endorsed this approach on the [25th June 2015](#).
- 4.4. Due to the changing focus of the Local Service Board's work and the upcoming legislation, it would be opportune to convene a meeting of the re-established LSB Scrutiny Working Group in September 2015, following the next meeting of the Local Service Board. The purpose of this meeting would be to familiarise the Members with the new agreed approach, prioritise areas of focus for scrutiny and agree a revised Terms of Reference.

5. **MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

5.1. Previous membership of the LSB Scrutiny Working Group comprised of:

- Five Members of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to include the Chairman. The composition of the Council's five representatives is based on the political balance of the Council and as such will be four Labour representatives and one from the main opposition group;
- A nominee of the Voluntary Sector;
- Two nominees of Cwm Taf Health Board;
- A community representative.

- With the demise of the South Wales Police Authority there is a need to identify a suitable nominee that can represent the South Wales Police Force in a non-executive capacity. This vacancy will remain in place until this position can be filled.

(In the absence of any member, substitutes will be allowed.)

- Co-opted 'expert' witness(es) may be invited to meetings, as and when felt appropriate.

5.2. Members are asked to agree the membership of the Working Group and appoint the relevant Members.

Note: It will be for each of the constituent bodies above to nominate their members to the Working Group, but in doing so must note that no member of the Scrutiny Working Group should hold an executive position within their respective organisations.

