



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Performance Panel – Service Improvement & Finance**

Committee Room 5 - Guildhall, Swansea

Tuesday, 12 December 2017 at 9.00 am

Present: Councillor C A Holley (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)
P R Hood-Williams
I E Mann

Councillor(s)
L James

Councillor(s)
P Jones

Officer(s)
Bethan Hopkins
Richard Rowlands
Ben Smith

Scrutiny Officer
Strategic Delivery & Performance Manager.
Head of Financial Services & Service Centre and Section
151 Officer

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): P Downing, M H Jones, J W Jones and B J Rowlands

1 Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

None

2 Notes, Conveners Letter and Response

Approved

3 Public Questions

None

4 Annual Review of Performance 2016/17

- This is Swansea Councils account of progress in meeting last year's priorities set out in the Corporate Aims
- There will be a very similar report produced next year but it will as result of the requirement under the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act so there will be some differences
- Services submit self-evaluations scored on a matrix. The self-evaluations relate to activities under the Corporate Aims and these scores are reviewed by the Performance Team for accuracy and fairness

- The matrix was set up to create a consistent approach to scoring across all services
- The Panel highlighted safeguarding, improving pupil attainment, creating a vibrant and viable city, tackling poverty and building sustainable communities for comment
- Richard Rowlands commented that the self-assessment is only relative to the to the activities set out in the Corporate Aims, it is not an assessment of the overall picture or broader economic position
- Overall the comments were positive in relation to performance but there are some questions and comments which can be found in the letter

5 Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring

- Ben Smith came to discuss the Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring
- There is £12m in reserves with an estimated £8m overspend forecast
- The budget needs to be balanced year on year and not over a period of years
- Some areas (Social Care) has an element of increasing the budget at the start but generally this does not happen
- The summaries of overspends was discussed. This is a result of the pace and scale of saving not being achieved
- There is £500k grant money spare to cover some of the overspend but the grants are reducing in the coming years so this won't be available going forward
- The contingency fund is entirely committed for 2017/18 and this is mostly for ER/VR
- Generally there is underspend on capital but this is put fully into the earmarked reserves. This is to be used to help smooth impact of development spending
- There is no recommendation that any money be put into Corporate Services next year
- Every post has to go to Corporate Management Team for recruitment approval

6 Work Plan 2017/18

- Highways and Transport Commissioning Review to be scheduled March 2018
- An item on Budget Proposals will be added to the 10th January meeting and the Perception Survey item will move to March

Letter to Cabinet Member

The meeting ended at 10.15 am

Chair