



City and County of Swansea

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

Committee Room 5 - Guildhall, Swansea

Wednesday, 7 February 2018 at 10.30 am

Present: Councillor C A Holley (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

P Downing
M H Jones
I E Mann

Councillor(s)

P R Hood-Williams
P K Jones
B J Rowlands

Councillor(s)

L James
J W Jones
D W W Thomas

Co-opted Member(s)

Co-opted Member(s)

Co-opted Member(s)

Other Attendees

Robert Francis-Davies

Cabinet Member - Investment, Regeneration & Tourism

Officer(s)

Karen Gibbins
Bethan Hopkins
Frances Jenkins
Ben Smith

Principal Librarian Information And Learning
Scrutiny Officer
Chief Finance Officer

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s):

Co-opted Member(s):

Other Attendees:

1 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

Lynda James – Personal interest item 6

2 Minutes.

Approved

3 Public Questions

None

4 Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring

- The overspend scale is improving, however the whole of the contingency fund will be spent
- 67% of savings proposals have been met
- Things are getting tight across all local authorities
- If suggested savings are not made by the end of the year, it compounds the impact on future budgets
- There are difficult decisions for Cabinet and Council
- Any non-savings will have to be met elsewhere as we are not drawing from general reserves
- Still working through full settlements regarding grants
- Reductions in grants will impact services
- This can disproportionately impact some services over others
- Very little unencumbered money comes to the Council
- The enhanced ER/VR rate is for a limited time and is an invest to save approach

5 Welsh Public Library Standards - Annual Performance Report 16/17

- The quality framework for libraries ensures that libraries meet certain standards
- There are 17 libraries in Swansea
- Housebound services for those who can't access libraries
- The libraries are spread throughout the authority
- Over 1.1 million people used the libraries in 16/17
- Link in with council priorities
- There are 18 core entitlements and 16 quality indicators to meet
- There are a couple of areas for improvement but overall the libraries perform very well
- 6th in Wales for physical visits despite the fact that buildings are stand alone and not bringing footfall in from multiuse buildings
- 3rd in Wales for regular and active borrowing
- 2nd highest in Wales for audio-visual and electronic borrowing
- There are high levels of customer satisfaction within the library service
- Reservations and requests are improving
- All libraries have wifi
- There is a new framework for 2017/2020 with an emphasis on health and wellbeing targeting people in the community with specific needs
- There are more targeted services and evaluations
- Cabinet Member noted that the libraries are now multi use and people are accessing them for a range of reasons and to access services which are being provided. This includes social interaction and helping tackle loneliness
- The Panel thanked the staff for their service in light of consistent cuts
- Cabinet member and head of service thanked the team for their contributions and hard work in difficult staffing circumstances

6 Work Plan 2017/18

Minutes of the Scrutiny Performance Panel – Service Improvement & Finance (07.02.2018)
Cont'd

- The next meeting on 12th February at 10.30am will be a pre-scrutiny of the Highways and Transportation Commissioning Review
- The meeting on 14th February at 10am and will look at the budget

The meeting ended at 11.50 am

Chair