



City and County of Swansea

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

Committee Room 5 - Guildhall, Swansea

Tuesday, 11 December 2018 at 10.00 am

**Present:** Councillor C A Holley (Chair) Presided

**Councillor(s)**

P R Hood-Williams  
J W Jones  
D W W Thomas

**Councillor(s)**

L James

**Councillor(s)**

P K Jones  
I E Mann

**Co-opted Member(s)**

**Co-opted Member(s)**

**Co-opted Member(s)**

**Other Attendees**

Clive Lloyd

Cabinet Member - Business Transformation & Performance (Deputy Leader)

David Hopkins

Cabinet Member - Delivery

**Officer(s)**

Bethan Hopkins  
Richard Rowlands  
Ben Smith  
Ryan Thomas

Scrutiny Officer  
Strategic Delivery & Performance Manager.  
Chief Finance Officer / Section 151 Officer  
Planning Control Manager

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillor(s): M H Jones and B J Rowlands

Co-opted Member(s):

Other Attendees:

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**1 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.**

- None

**2 Minutes.**

- Approved

**3 Public Questions**

- None

**4 Budget Update**

- The draft budget has been published
- Final settlement due end of December
- Expectation between £1.5m - £3m
- Much of the money will be ring-fenced

## **5 Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring**

- Services overspent by £8.5m
- £2.7m to be addressed by the end of the year 2018/19
- Spend pressures in social care
- Some capital underspend relieves some pressure on capital financing charges
- Housing Revenue Account – no issues
- Every vacant post goes before CMT for approval
- The earmarked reserves are only drawn on advice from 151 Officer
- Making some inroads to savings stretch targets but not as much as required
- Totality of ER/VR from the restructure reserve
- The sickness savings target is about looking to reduce the overall sickness bill
- Looking at different way of working like agile working creating a better work life balance – trials around flexi and core hours
- Some issues around the pace and scale of delivery of savings

## **6 Annual Review of Well-being Objectives and Corporate Plan 2018/22**

- The plan was reviewed to meet requirements
- Following a review of progress and evidence
- Addition of a new objective which maximises the contribution to the Well-being of Future Generations Act under the resilient Wales goal and the Environment Act. Ensures better aligned with the Corporate Plan and Well-being Plan
- Wales Audit Office certified the plan as meeting requirements under legislation
- No Brexit implications in the plan
- Collaborative working needs to list the bodies who are working together

## **7 Planning Annual Report 2017/18**

- The Planning process is working well, the officers have change the way of working and that has been a success
- The Planning Committee is streamlined and takes their responsibilities seriously
- Some concerns over enforcement of planning breaches
- Public concern over ecological enforcement – if breaches are found they will be dealt with
- The previous monitoring officer was grant funded and this funding ended
- Previous call in system was used inappropriately so the new system is better

- Questions around the transparency of planning applications around Councillor involvement

**8 Work Plan 2018/19**

- Discussed

The meeting ended at Time Not Specified

**Chair**