



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA
DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

Councillor Mike Day
Chair of Scrutiny Programme
Committee
City & County of Swansea

Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:
Direct Line:
Llinell
Uniongyrochol:

Cllr David Phillips
01792 636141

E-Mail / E-Bost:
Our Ref / Ein Cyf:
Your Ref / Eich Cyf:
Date / Dyddiad:

david.phillips@swansea.gov.uk
DP/SH
SPC/2013-14/6

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Dear Councillor *Mike*

Cabinet Member Question Session – 28 October 2013

Thank you for your letter of the 18 November 2013 whose contents I have been considering.

It provides a useful snapshot of the progress my Administration has made to date and reflects the challenges we face for continued improvement.

However for the purpose of accuracy I need to correct one sentence and query another.

In regards to Target Areas, I was clearly misunderstood. I did not say (or did not intend to give the impression that) resources “that would otherwise go to other areas” would not be diverted to the Target Areas. It is likely that the opposite will be true.

The determination of priorities clearly implies that resources will be expended on one activity / area than another. And that is the case here. These are the areas of the greatest need and will therefore have a greater call on the Authority’s resources.

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COUNCILLOR/Y CYNGHORYDD
DAVID PHILLIPS
LEADER / ARWEINYDD

CABINET OFFICE, CIVIC CENTRE, OYSTERMOUTH ROAD, SWANSEA SA1 3SN
SWYDDFA’R CABINET, CANOLFAN DDINESIG, HEOL YSTUMLLWYNARTH, ABERTAWE SA1 3SN

☎ (01792) 636141 ☒ (01792) 636196
✉ david.phillips@swansea.gov.uk www.swansea.gov.uk

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If the initiative proves successful then it will be rolled out to other areas of need and that will mean that those areas in turn will have a priority call on resources.

Council resources cannot, and should not, be disbursed equally to all. That is illogical and negates the purpose of a Local Authority.

You will understand that the areas of poverty and deprivation already receive a disproportionate amount of public resources compared to areas of affluence. That is not only inevitable, but seems to me to be only right and proper.

You will appreciate that in addition to reducing poverty and deprivation one of the objectives of the initiative is to find a different model of delivery that will not only provide a better service, but by focusing resources, do so at less cost. This should in turn mean that resources could be released back into other services.

I regret that I do not understand the final sentence of this paragraph "In response in those areas". I would be obliged if you could clarify it.

We covered a lot of ground at my session and were unable to go into my Anti-Poverty Portfolio area in any detail. I confirm that I would be pleased to return to discuss this as and when your work programme permits.

Yours sincerely



COUNCILLOR DAVID PHILLIPS
LEADER

COUNCILLOR/Y CYNGHORYDD
DAVID PHILLIPS
LEADER / ARWEINYDD

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SWYDDFA'R CABINET, CANOLFAN DDINESIG, HEOL YSTUMLLWYNARTH, ABERTAWE SA1 3SN

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