



**CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA**

**Dinas A Sir Abertawe**

Councillor Rob Stewart  
Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources

**BY EMAIL**

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**Scrutiny**

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**6 August 2014**

Dear Councillor Stewart,

**Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel  
17 July 2014**

The Panel met on 17 July and received a presentation from Richard Rowlands, Corporate Improvement Manager, regarding the Corporate Improvement Plan 2013/17, we are grateful to Richard for his attendance at the meeting and the advice and information he provided to us.

We have a number of observations regarding the Corporate Improvement Plan that we wish to share with you.

We appreciate that the Corporate Improvement Plan represents the culmination of a significant amount of work and effort and is fulfilling a dual role of meeting the requirements of the Auditors and informing the public. However, we feel that it is not sufficiently meeting the needs of the general public and does not provide an accessible assessment of the Council's priorities and performance. There are a number of issues that cause complications including:

- the use of a different numbering format of the Improvement Objectives in the summary and the main document is confusing (e.g. 1-8 and A-I)
- the summary of the plan should include the results, and not just the indicators
- there are no indicators which directly relate to Target Areas, which we feel is a significant omission bearing in mind the importance attached to the target area

Overview & Scrutiny / Trosolwg a chraffu

City and County of Swansea / Dinas a Sir Abertawe  
Civic Centre, Swansea, SA1 3SN / Canolfan Ddinesig, Abertawe, SA1 3SN

approach. Can you advise if there are any plans to develop indicators relating to the work going on in the target areas in future versions of the plan?

- We feel that the section of “What works well now” is underdeveloped for some indicators and we feel that a greater emphasis should be put on what impact has been made as a result of the Council’s work.
- We understand that the Council will be developing a new Corporate Plan next year which will be an over-arching document, bringing together a range of departmental plans and is intended to be a more publicly accessible document. We would like to be involved in the development of this and to be consulted on a draft version.

We are grateful for your prompt response to the letter we sent to you on 2 July, which has duly been reported to the Scrutiny Programme Committee. We are pleased to note the opportunities for scrutiny involvement in the budget process and the future of the ICT contract that you outlined and we will amend our work plan accordingly. We note that the first item you identified is the Cabinet report and strategic programme (Sustainable Swansea – Fit for the Future: Delivery Programme), which was reported to Cabinet on 29 July. You stated that pending Cabinet approval, this could be reported to the Panel in August. Our meeting will take place on 20 August; therefore we would like to invite you to attend, along with the relevant officers, to discuss this with us.

It would be helpful to receive your reply to this letter by 6 September so that it can be included in the agenda of a future Scrutiny Programme Committee meeting at the earliest opportunity. We look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,



**Councillor Mary Jones**  
**Convenor, Service Improvement and Finance Performance Panel**  
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