



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA
DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

To
Councillor Robert Francis-Davies
**Cabinet Member for Enterprise,
Development & Regeneration**

*Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:*

Scrutiny

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And
Councillor David Hopkins
**Cabinet Member for Housing &
Communities**

*Our Ref
Ein Cyf:*

*Your Ref
Eich Cyf:*

*Date
Dyddiad:*

3 February 2015

BY EMAIL

Dear Councillor Francis-Davies and Councillor Hopkins,

**Re: Service Improvement & Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel
14 January 2015**

The Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel recently considered the 2nd Quarter Budget Monitoring Report, presented to us by the Head of Finance and Delivery and the 2nd Quarter Performance Monitoring Report, presented by the Corporate Improvement Manager. As a result of our discussions we raised a number of comments and queries which we would like a written response to. These are as follows:

Enterprise, Development & Regeneration Portfolio

- We would like an explanation of the Welsh Government “after value grant clawbacks” for the following major schemes (included in the list of capital expenditure on major schemes): Mountain Colliery; Cwmfelin works site; Fabian Way plots.
- We noted in the 2nd Quarter Performance Monitoring report that the number of library visits has declined in comparison to Q2 last year – following national trends. In order to better understand this reduction we would like to be provided with a breakdown of the number of visits for each library for the 2nd Quarter 2014/15?

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

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CIVIC CENTRE, SWANSEA, SA1 3SN / CANOLFAN DDINESIG, ABERTAWE, SA1 3SN
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Housing & Communities Portfolio

- We would like to know whether the £1.3m boiler replacement programme included in the list of capital expenditure on major schemes incorporate grants from energy companies and whether the Council is eligible to apply for such grants for use in its own housing stock?
- In order to improve clarity, the Quarterly Budget Monitoring Reports and any other budget reports should make it clear that the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is separate to the main Council budget. It should be made more explicit that the HRA is mainly funded from council tenant rents and is therefore ring-fenced. This distinction will be increasingly important as the planned improvements to Council houses increase as part of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard, whilst the Council cuts its budgets in other areas.

It would be helpful to receive your reply by 24 February 2015. Scrutiny letters and responses are also included in the agenda of the Scrutiny Programme Committee as the committee maintains an overview of all scrutiny activities, and monitors correspondence. We look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR MARY JONES

Convener, Service Improvement & Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel

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