



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA
DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

Councillor Mary Jones
Convenor of Service Improvement &
Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel

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DH/JW

16 February 2015

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Dear Councillor Jones

**SERVICE IMPROVEMENT AND FINANCE SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE PANEL:
14TH JANUARY 2015**

I refer to your letter dated the 3rd February 2015 in which you set out the panel's comments and queries in relation to the 2nd Quarter Budget Monitoring report. My response to the questions that relate to the Housing and Communities portfolio are as follows.

The panel asked whether the £1.3m boiler replacement programme incorporates grants from energy companies and whether the Council is eligible to apply for such grants for use on its own housing stock?

The boiler replacement budget for the current financial year is £2.4m and does not include any grant funding from the utility companies. The Council is eligible to apply for such grants and in previous years, has secured additional funding for a range of energy efficiency measures including boiler replacement. However, both the eligibility and the amount of grant available can vary considerably from year to year depending on the extent to which the utility companies are meeting Government quotas. For example in this current year, support for external wall insulation schemes has been their preference and therefore, grant funding for this work has been sought.

**COUNCILLOR/Y CYNGHORYDD
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The panel also suggested that the Quarterly Budget Monitoring Reports (and any other budget reports) should make clear that the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is separate to the main Council budget and that it should be made more explicit that the HRA is mainly funded from council tenant rents and is therefore ring-fenced.

I can confirm that this distinction will be made in future budget reports.

Yours sincerely



COUNCILLOR DAVID HOPKINS
CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES & HOUSING

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