



City and County of Swansea

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

Committee Room 5 - Guildhall, Swansea

Tuesday, 13 November 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)

M H Jones
I E Mann

Councillor(s)

P K Jones
B J Rowlands

Officer(s)

Bethan Hopkins
Richard Rowlands
Ben Smith

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

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): P Downing and L James

1 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

- None

2 Notes, Conveners Letter and Response

- Approved

3 Public Questions

- None

4 Reserves Update

- Report recently went to Council
- Section 21 of the report sets out the overall position
- The general fund is at the minimum acceptable level
- The overspend remains 'sticky'
- Earmarked reserves are needed for specific purposes
- Revenue can be used to support capital but not the other way round
- The first quarter £3m was an unprecedented draw from specific reserves
- The insurance reserves will drift down over years due to planned draws

- The reserves will dwindle for various reasons as they are spent
- The outlook is difficult due to real terms austerity
- All other authorities are in the same position
- General funds are for emergencies and not planned to be used
- No 'cash' behind the unusable reserves e.g an asset value or road value
- 18/19 contingency fund fully expended
- Compensating savings will need to be made to afford the capital financing costs longer term
- Schools are £45m out of the capital programme total
- Departure costs are redundancy and early access pension

5 Mid-Year Budget Statement 18/19

- Average settlement was -.3% for local authorities
- Still awaiting the amount of revenue support grant
- Assumption of council tax increase of 6.3% - policy decision for each Council
- Money goes from central government to welsh government, health spending increased, local government has a minus figure

6 Annual Review of Performance 17/18

- Must write and publish the annual report to achieve objectives under WBFGA
- Explores – what we are doing/how we are doing it/how changes work as a result of the act/governance and accountability
- As move forward into 2017-2022 the detail will develop
- Aim to try and identify performance indicators to report on and use case studies
- Information from other performance reports is used to mitigate cost and impact of report development
- New corporate priority will be reported on in next year's report – developing PIs now
- The WBFGA is being built into planning and governance and working on embedding it going forward
- High level decisions need to be filtered down into work practices
- Discussed European funding for a range of projects designed for young people who are NEET

7 Work Plan 2018-2019

- Discussed work plan items

The meeting ended at 11.40 am

Chair