



To:

Councillor David Hopkins, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Performance

*Please ask for:
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Overview & Scrutiny

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27 October 2022

BY EMAIL

Summary: This is a letter from the Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Performance. The letter concerns the meeting held on 4 October 2022 and the Annual Performance Monitoring Report 2021/22.

Dear Councillor Hopkins,

On the 4 October, the Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel met to discuss the Annual Performance Monitoring Report 2021/22. The Panel are grateful to yourself and Richard Rowlands Corporate Performance Manager, for attending to discuss and answer questions. Our observations focused on the following areas. We were made aware of the impact the Covid pandemic had in a number of performance areas. In addition to this there are 18 new safeguarding indicators as a result of new national Social Services Performance Framework therefore there was no comparable data for these indicators as they are new.

We were made aware that five out of eight Education and Skills indicators improved or stayed the same. We were pleased to see the progress made with Additional Learning Needs provision and understand that a rise in Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETS) and lower attendance would be affected by Covid.

We were told that only one out of eight indicators for Economy and Infrastructure have improved or stayed the same compared to 20/21 and for Tackling Poverty, three out of five indicators improved or stayed the same. We were pleased to see that three out of four indicators in biodiversity and nature had improved with an increase of 121% in tree planting.

Indicators improving or staying the same was three out of five in regards to transformation of the Council. One of the declining indicators was staff sickness. We are acutely aware that this has been heavily impacted by Covid due to many Council jobs providing care and support which was impacted by enforced absence. We would

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request that you look into absence records to define and categorise sickness further to take enforced absences into account in future.

Overall, we were fully appreciative of the impact Covid has had over 2021/22 and that it has been difficult to compare it to 2020/21. We appreciate the efforts where indicators have improved in difficult circumstances.

We are interested in any thoughts you may have on the contents of this letter but, in this instance, we require no formal written response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Holley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Councillor Chris Holley
Convener, Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel
✉ cllr.chris.holley@swansea.gov.uk