



To:
Councillor Rob Stewart
**Cabinet Member for Economy,
Finance & Strategy**

*Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:*

Scrutiny

Councillor Andrea Lewis
**Cabinet Member for Service
Transformation**

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*Date
Dyddiad:*

2 May 2023

BY EMAIL

Summary: This is a letter from the Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Members for Economy, Finance and Strategy and Service Transformation. The letter concerns the meeting held on 18 April 2023 and the review of the Corporate Plan and Wellbeing Objectives. This letter does not require a response.

Dear Councillors Stewart and Lewis,

On the 18 April, the Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel met to discuss the Corporate Plan and Wellbeing Objectives. The Panel are grateful to you and Richard Rowlands, Strategic Delivery and Performance Manager for attending to discuss and answer our questions.

Further to points raised at the Council meeting on 30 March we discussed the readability of the new corporate plan, with concern regarding the length of the document and how this may have affected the consultation survey response, however we are also aware that the survey was part of wider approach of involvement. The officer informed us that with the available resources, work is being undertaken to develop different versions of the plan through different mediums. We were made aware of the challenging balance between a plan that is user friendly but also a document that meets legislative responsibilities and fulfils statutory guidance.

We commented on the number of sections and queried the progress measurements as some are still to be confirmed. Although we know this is a draft plan we asked when a plan containing confirmed measures will be produced so that targets met can be recorded. The officer informed us that there are many different ways to measure a plan which often starts with a large list of potential measures and is reduced down over time focussing on data that is collectable, robust, consistent and reportable. This sifting process then produces a shortlist of reportable measures. The officer reported that this work is underway, the results of which will be brought to the Panel. We asked for a time scale on this and were informed officers are aiming to report on new measures

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in next year's first quarter report. This will also include the data development list which is a list of measures that can't collect at the moment but has an aim for collection in the future.

We also asked about data collection on behalf of Welsh Government and were informed that previously Swansea Council had used a national framework of public accountability measures which were useful and provided a consistent way to measure performance and a means of benchmarking across Wales. Those measures were removed by the Welsh Government which officers have raised with Audit Wales, who are who are undertaking the review of performance management across Wales and work carried out on the corporate plan.

We asked whether the measures would be included in the corporate plan or the quarterly performance monitoring report and were informed that they will be in both as they will be included in the yearly refresh of the corporate plan as well as the quarterly performance report. We will therefore await further developments on the measures in the Quarter 1 Performance Monitoring Report 2023/34.

Your Response

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,



Councillor Chris Holley
Convener, Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel

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