

Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 10 October 2016

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE 2015-16 (REPORT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT DATA UNIT ~ WALES)

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| Purpose | The Committee is provided with a national performance report which will be useful in supporting and informing the work of scrutiny in Swansea. |
| Content | The annual bulletin, published by the Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales, contains information on the level and range of performance across Wales between 2015-16 on a number of service areas. |
| Councillors are being asked to | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• consider the performance results• use the information published to help inform the scrutiny work programme |
| Lead Councillor(s) | Councillor Mary Jones, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee |
| Lead Officer & Report Author | Brij Madahar, Overview & Scrutiny Coordinator Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk |

1. Introduction

1.1 It is the responsibility of non-executive councillors to scrutinise the authority's service performance to help drive improvement. To help ensure that challenge is well informed scrutiny should be aware of reports that are published which provide information on service performance.

1.2 The Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales has recently published its eleventh annual bulletin on local authority performance across a range of services. It compares performance during 2015-16 across the 22 Welsh Local Authorities.

1.3 The indicators reported within are part of the Performance Improvement Framework for local authorities in Wales and reflect key priorities identified by the Welsh Government and local government in Wales, including:

- Providing a clean and safe environment
- Providing affordable and appropriate housing
- Supporting safe and independent lives
- Safeguarding children

- Educating children
- Supporting leisure and culture
- Corporate health

1.4 The full report is attached. Swansea's performance when compared across Wales, as reported in the bulletin, can be summarised as follows (where possible comparison has been made with results for the previous year):

- a) Overall:
- Of the 40 indicators that were comparable between 2014-15 and 2015-16, Swansea has improved in 20.
 - Of the 40 indicators Swansea's performance in 2015/16 is categorised as follows:
 - Top Quarter: 9
 - Upper Middle Quarter: 8
 - Lower Middle Quarter: 12
 - Bottom Quarter: 11

NB – the performance report does not show individual authority performance for all indicators. The following information has been extracted from the report but comparison, where included, (rank out of the 22 Welsh Local Authorities with previous year) has been added for the panel's benefit:

- b) Performance within the top quarter:

| Indicator | 2015/6 | 2014/5 |
|---|-----------------|------------------|
| • The % of adults aged 60 or over who hold a concessionary bus pass | 2 nd | 3 rd |
| • The average point score for looked after children in any local authority maintained learning setting | 3 rd | 13 th |
| • The % of roads in overall "poor" condition | 4 th | 2 nd |
| • The average point score for pupils in schools maintained by the local authority | 5 th | 6 th |
| • The % of private sector dwellings that had been vacant for more than 6 months that were returned to occupation through direct action by the local authority | 5 th | 4 th |
| • The percentage of all pupils / pupils in LA care who leave education and training without qualifications. | - | - |

c) Performance within the bottom quarter:

| Indicator | 2015/6 | 2014/5 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| • The average number of days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant | 22 nd | 17 th |
| • The % of municipal waste collected by local authorities sent to landfill | 22 nd | 21 st |
| • The % of children's reviews carried out in line with the statutory timetable | 22 nd | 22 nd |
| • The % of young people formerly looked after with whom the authority is in contact, who are known to be engaged in education, training or employment at the age of 19 | 20 th | - |
| • The % of statutory visits to looked after children that took place in accordance with regulations | 18 th | 18 th |
| • The % of clients whose care plans should have been reviewed that were reviewed | 17 th | 22 nd |
| • The rate of delayed transfers of care due to social care reasons - per 100 population aged 75 or over | 17 th | 15 th |

d) Performance in between:

i) Upper Middle Quarter:

| Indicator | 2015/6 | 2014/5 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| • The number of visits to local authority sport and leisure facilities during the year per 1000 population where the visitor will be participating in physical activity | 7 th | 9 th |
| • The number of working days/shifts per full-time equivalent local authority employee lost due to sickness absence | 10 th | - |
| • The % of final statements of special education need issued within 26 weeks | 11 th | 10 th |
| • The % of children looked after on 31 March who have had three or more placements during the year | 12 th | - |
| • Primary and secondary school attendance | - | - |
| • Percentage of KS2 pupils achieving the Core Subject Indicator determined by Teacher Assessment | - | - |

ii) Lower Middle Quarter:

| Indicator | 2015/6 | 2014/5 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| • The % of carers of adults who were offered an assessment or review of their needs in their own right during the year | 12 th | 9 th |
| • The % of municipal waste collected by local authorities prepared for reuse and/or recycled, composted or treated biologically in another way | 12 th | 9 th |
| • The % of initial assessments where there is evidence that the child has been seen alone by the social worker | 13 th | 18 th |
| • The % of reported fly – tipping incidents cleared within 5 working days | 14 th | 17 th |
| • The % of pupils assessed at the end of Key Stage 3 achieving the Core Subject Indicator | 14 th | 14 th |
| • The % of pupils assessed receiving a Teacher Assessment in Welsh (first language) at the end of Key Stage 3 | 14 th | 13 th |
| • % of children looked after at 31 March who have experienced one or more changes of school which were not due to transitional arrangements | 14 th | - |
| • The % of highways and land of a high or acceptable level of cleanliness | 15 th | 11 th |

1.5 The annual report and other useful performance information is published on the Data Unit website: www.dataunitwales.gov.uk). Data Unit Wales also have an interactive website (www.mylocalcouncil.info) which helps the public, councillors, officers and partners to understand how their local council is performing and easily compare council performance across Wales. 'mylocalcouncil' has been designed to be intuitive and user-friendly and makes the latest key performance information for Wales' 22 councils more accessible. The site allows users to see how their authority compares to others across Wales, how it compares to the Wales average, and how its performance has varied over recent years.

1.6 Members should consider how best to use the information provided to help to motivate, focus and inform the scrutiny work programme, and support the work of scrutiny in Swansea. The Committee may wish to refer any issues to relevant Performance Panels. The Service Improvement & Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel is also be looking at this report in more detail to help inform its work.

2. Legal Implications

2.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report.

Background Papers: None

Legal Officer: Tracey Meredith

Finance Officer: Carl Billingsley

Appendix – Local Government Performance 2015-16 (Report of the Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales)