

Report of the Convener

Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel 4th October 2017

Briefing on Local Government Performance 2016-17

Purpose	This report provides the Panel 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 2016-17 on a number of service areas.
Panel Members are being asked to	1. Consider the performance results 2. Use the information published to help inform the Panels work plan
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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 twelfth annual bulletin on local authority performance across a range of services. It compares performance during 2016-17 across the 22 Welsh Local Authorities.

1.3 Note: The Performance Improvement Framework in Wales has changed significantly since the last Bulletin, with the withdrawal of the majority of the social care indicators. The data for the three remaining social care indicators is not yet available. The absence of data for this service area means that the dataset as published does not provide a complete picture of performance for 2016-17.

1.4 The main areas of reporting are;

- Providing a clean and safe environment

- Providing affordable and appropriate housing
- Educating Children
- Supporting leisure and culture

In summary compared to last year;

- 52% of indicators show performance as better than last year
- 16% of performance stayed the same
- 32% of indicators show performance as worse than last year
- 32% of indicators place Swansea amongst the better performing Councils in Wales
- 16% of indicators place Swansea amongst the worst performing Councils in Wales

1.5 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):

Performance within the top quarter:

Indicator	2016/7	2015/6
The percentage of roads on overall poor condition	5th	4 th
The percentage of adults aged 60 or over who hold a concessionary bus pass	3rd	2 nd
The percentage 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	4th	5 th
The number of working days/shifts per full-time equivalent (FTE) local authority employee lost due to sickness absence	6th	10 th
The average point score for pupils aged 15 in schools maintained by the local authority	4th	5th
The percentage of pupils aged 15 at the preceding 31st August, in schools maintained by the local authority who achieved the level 2 threshold including a GCSE grade A*-C in English or Welsh first language and mathematics	5th	3rd

Performance within the bottom quarter:

Indicator	2016/7	2015/6
The percentage of reported fly-tipping incidents cleared within 5 working days	17th	14th
The percentage of municipal waste collected by local authorities sent to landfill	22nd	22nd
The average number of days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant	18th	22nd

Performance within the Upper Middle Quarter:

Indicator	2016/7	2015/6
The percentage of final statements of special education need issued within 26 weeks	10th	11 th
The number of visits to local authority sport and leisure facilities during the year per 1,000 population where the visitor will be participating in physical activity	10th	7th

Performance within the Lower Middle Quarter:

Indicator	2016/7	2015/6
The percentage of highways and relevant land of a high or acceptable level of cleanliness	14th	15th
The percentage of municipal waste collected by local authorities prepared for reuse and/or recycled, composted or treated biologically in another way	14th	12th

1.6 23 PI's have comparable data, of which 4 Education PI's are split with Year 11 / aged 15 data. Of the indicators that were comparable between 2015-16 and 2016-17, Swansea has improved in 4, deteriorated in 5 and stayed the same in 2.

1.7 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.

1.8 Members should consider how best to use the information provided to help to motivate, focus and inform their work. The Panel may wish to refer any issues to relevant Performance Panels. The Scrutiny Programme Committee will also be looking at this report to help inform the overall work programme.

Appendix – Local Government Performance 2016-17 (Report of the Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales)