



City and County of Swansea

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

Committee Room 5 - Guildhall, Swansea

Wednesday, 7 February 2018 at 10.30 am

**Present:** Councillor C A Holley (Chair) Presided

**Councillor(s)**

P Downing  
M H Jones  
I E Mann

**Councillor(s)**

P R Hood-Williams  
P K Jones  
B J Rowlands

**Councillor(s)**

L James  
J W Jones  
D W W Thomas

**Co-opted Member(s)**

**Co-opted Member(s)**

**Co-opted Member(s)**

**Other Attendees**

Robert Francis-Davies

Cabinet Member - Culture, Tourism & Major Projects

**Officer(s)**

Karen Gibbins  
Bethan Hopkins  
Frances Jenkins  
Ben Smith

Principal Librarian Information And Learning  
Scrutiny Officer  
Strategic Manager Tourism Marketing and Events  
Head of Financial Services & Service Centre and Section  
151 Officer

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillor(s):

Co-opted Member(s):

Other Attendees:

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**12 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.**

Lynda James – Personal interest item 6

**13 Minutes.**

Approved

**14 Public Questions**

None

**15 Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring**

- The overspend scale is improving, however the whole of the contingency fund will be spent
- 67% of savings proposals have been met
- Things are getting tight across all local authorities
- If suggested savings are not made by the end of the year, it compounds the impact on future budgets
- There are difficult decisions for Cabinet and Council
- Any non-savings will have to be met elsewhere as we are not drawing from general reserves
- Still working through full settlements regarding grants
- Reductions in grants will impact services
- This can disproportionately impact some services over others
- Very little unencumbered money comes to the Council
- The enhanced ER/VR rate is for a limited time and is an invest to save approach

## **16 Welsh Public Library Standards - Annual Performance Report 16/17**

- The quality framework for libraries ensures that libraries meet certain standards
- There are 17 libraries in Swansea
- Housebound services for those who can't access libraries
- The libraries are spread throughout the authority
- Over 1.1 million people used the libraries in 16/17
- Link in with council priorities
- There are 18 core entitlements and 16 quality indicators to meet
- There are a couple of areas for improvement but overall the libraries perform very well
- 6<sup>th</sup> in Wales for physical visits despite the fact that buildings are stand alone and not bringing footfall in from multiuse buildings
- 3<sup>rd</sup> in Wales for regular and active borrowing
- 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in Wales for audio-visual and electronic borrowing
- There are high levels of customer satisfaction within the library service
- Reservations and requests are improving
- All libraries have wifi
- There is a new framework for 2017/2020 with an emphasis on health and wellbeing targeting people in the community with specific needs
- There are more targeted services and evaluations
- Cabinet Member noted that the libraries are now multi use and people are accessing them for a range of reasons and to access services which are being provided. This includes social interaction and helping tackle loneliness
- The Panel thanked the staff for their service in light of consistent cuts
- Cabinet member and head of service thanked the team for their contributions and hard work in difficult staffing circumstances

## **17 Work Plan 2017/18**

Minutes of the Scrutiny Performance Panel – Service Improvement & Finance (07.02.2018)  
Cont'd

- The next meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am will be a pre-scrutiny of the Highways and Transportation Commissioning Review
- The meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February at 10am and will look at the budget

The meeting ended at 11.50 am

**Chair**