



City and County of Swansea

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

Committee Room 5 - Guildhall, Swansea

Tuesday, 15 January 2019 at 9.30 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  
D W W Thomas

**Councillor(s)**

L James  
J W Jones

**Co-opted Member(s)**

**Co-opted Member(s)**

**Co-opted Member(s)**

### Other Attendees

**Officer(s)**

Bethan Hopkins  
Richard Rowlands  
Ben Smith

Scrutiny Officer  
Strategic Delivery & Performance Manager.  
Chief Finance Officer / Section 151 Officer

### Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): B J Rowlands

Co-opted Member(s):

Other Attendees:

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

- None

**2 Notes, Conveners Letter and Response**

- Approved, some print/format issues on one page - feedback

**3 Public Questions**

- None

**4 Quarter 2 2018/19 Performance Monitoring Report**

- Summary chart – 64% of indicators met and 53% showing improvement compared to Q2 last year.

#### Safeguarding

- AS8 historical data shows a declining trend since Q4 16/17, second lowest since records going back to 2016/17.
- AS9 first quarter showing improvement (compared to Q1) since 16/17
- CFS18 increased number of looked after children – highest since records 16/17, 14% increase since the same time last year
- CFS19/20 both improving trends

#### Education

- Majority of indicators have improved their target
- BBMA4 new PI, below the number of starts for the same period as last year
- Q2 primary school attendance figure lowest Q2 figure since records 2014/15.

#### Tackling Poverty

- Improved time of processing new Housing and Council Tax Benefit claims but HBCT101B (time to process Housing benefit changes in circumstances) still high against historical data

#### Transformation and Future Council

- CHR002 staff sickness has the highest Q2 result since records 2015/16 (CMT changed sickness target to make it more realistic)
- FINA6 there are risks in relation to balancing the budget

## **5 Sustainable Swansea - Fit For The Future: Budget Proposals 2019/20 – 2022/23**

- The budget is out for consultation at present
- There is 1.5m extra revenue and some extra benefits on capital
- Teachers pay award is still a pressure
- Some concerns around teachers' pension funding
- The overspend is still 'sticky'
- General reserves are at the minimum considered safe
- Departments will have to meet some of their own costs
- Overspending risks are material
- Budget scrutiny set for 12<sup>th</sup> February 2019
- Long term costs of capital financing will continue to grow
- Total known pressures will increase
- Still awaiting amount of money for social services announced by Chancellor
- Split money between NHS and local authorities
- Important to recognise the consequences of continuing austerity on the future purpose and shape of local authorities - substantial
- Need to look at how we maintain core services
- Need more clarity on how we get to a sustainable budget
- Savings should be realistic and achievable

**6 Work Plan 2018/19**

- Discussed remainder of work plan
- Budget meetings next

The meeting ended at 11.15 am

**Chair**