



**To/
Councillor Rob Stewart
Cabinet Member for
Economy and Strategy**

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Overview & Scrutiny

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BY EMAIL

9th October 2017

Summary: This is a letter from the Service Improvement and Finance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Economy and Strategy following the meeting of the Panel on 6th September 2017. It is about the Corporate Plan.

Dear Councillor Stewart,

On 6th September 2017, the Service Improvement and Finance Performance Panel met to consider the End of Year Performance Monitoring Report 2016/17, the Corporate Plan 2017/22, Capital Outturn and Financing 2016/17 and the Quarter 1 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring 2017/18, advised by Richard Rowlands and Ben Smith.

The panel were grateful to both officers for providing information and answering questions. The Panel sought further information on specific matters and have contacted relevant officers directly about these.

The Panel also made a number of observations that we wish to share with you.

Corporate Plan

The Panel noted there are five wellbeing objectives within the Corporate Plan but there is not a specific one on biodiversity and climate change. We note the mention within the Economy and Infrastructure objective; however the Panel did not feel this gave it the prominence it deserves.

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Given the Local Wellbeing Plan has a draft objective 'Working with Nature' the Panel feels there should be the same level of commitment in the Corporate Plan. The Panel understands that the Local Wellbeing Plan will shape the work and aims of the Council going forward, so it seems sensible that the Corporate Plan should reflect these intentions encouraging a cohesive approach to priorities.

The Panel also wishes to express its disappointment that there is no mention of scrutiny in the Corporate Plan. For example, it would have been helpful if Section 4 on Monitoring Delivery had referenced scrutiny, to help raise its profile and importance to the Council.

Commissioning Reviews

The Panel will be carrying out pre-decision scrutiny on the Public Protection Commissioning Review which is scheduled for Cabinet on 19 October. The Panel is concerned about the tight timescales involved in pre-decision scrutiny of these significant commissioning reviews. The Panel does not usually have sight of commissioning reviews until a few days before they are submitted to Cabinet. Not only can this make scheduling meetings difficult but it does not allow for a thorough examination of substantial documents to enable the Panel to give meaningful feedback. We know that other reviews are underway and will report in due course. We would be pleased to see more time being made available in the future for us to carry out scrutiny.

We hope that you find the contents of this letter useful and would welcome any further comments however **we do not expect you to provide a formal response.**

Yours sincerely,



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

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