

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale on Monday, 24th July, 2017 at 5 p.m.

PRESENT:

County Borough Councillor G.R.Davies – Chair

County Borough Councillors

S.Bradwick	J.Elliott	T.Williams
J.Cullwick	G.Holmes	C.J.Willis
M.Diamond	W.Lewis	R.Yeo
	S.Rees-Owen	

Also in Attendance

County Borough Councillor L.M.Adams, Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee
County Borough Councillor W.Treeby
Mr.R.Hull, Chair of Audit Committee
Mr.J.Fish, elected Parent/Governor (Education Co-opted Member)

Officers in Attendance

Mr.C.B.Jones – Director, Legal & Democratic Services
Mr.P.Griffiths – Service Director, Performance & Improvement
Ms.K.May – Head of Democratic Services

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED – to note that in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, County Borough Councillor G.R.Davies (Chair) declared a personal interest in matters that may relate to substance misuse as "I provide a service for people who use substances".

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED – to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee held on the 4th April, 2017.

3. PRESENTATION – LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

To assist Councillors in undertaking their role as a Member of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee, the Committee received, Mr.P.Griffiths, Service Director for Performance and Improvement, who with the aid of PowerPoint slides covered the following topics:-

- **Part 1 – The Big Picture:** ‘Where does Welsh Government’s money come from / go?’; ‘Definition of the Different Types of Expenditure i.e. Revenue and Capital’; and ‘Where do Council’s get their money from?’.
- **Part 2 – Revenue Expenditure:** ‘How revenue expenditure is funded’; ‘Understanding the jargon: Revenue’; ‘Revenue Support Grant’; ‘Non-Domestic Rates’; ‘Standard Spending Assessments’; ‘Specific Grants’; ‘Income Generation’; ‘Medium Term Financial Planning’; ‘Well being of future generations Act’; and ‘Council Tax’.
- **Part 3 – Capital Expenditure** – ‘Understanding the jargon – capital’; ‘sources of capital funding’; and ‘Treasury Management’.
- **Part 4 – Corporate Governance** – ‘Legal responsibilities of Members and Officers – Section 151 Officer’; ‘The Corporate role of the Member (relating to finance)’; and ‘Different Member roles – Executive and Overview & Scrutiny’.

Following the presentation made by the Service Director, Performance and Improvement, where many queries of Members were duly responded to, it was **RESOLVED** - that a copy of the PowerPoint slides as presented at this evening’s meeting be emailed to Members of the Committee.

REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

4. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE’S WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the report of the Director, Legal and Democratic Services which set out a proposed approach to drafting a work programme for the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee and were asked to consider adopting the draft work programme attached at Appendix 1.

The Head of Democratic Services Officer reported that whilst devising a draft work programme, a number of key sources of information had been considered as well as the following meetings that had been held:

- With the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee and relevant Council Officers to discuss potential areas of work;
- Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs held on the 31st May and 5th July, 2017 respectively; and
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 10th July, 2017.

Members attention was drawn to the Notice of Motion that was considered at the full Council meeting on the 30th November, 2016 and which was referred to at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 10th July, 2017 where it was felt that the matter in respect of the proposed cessation of burial or cremation fees charged for the funerals of veterans and

service men and women should be dealt with by Members of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee and included within its Work Programme. The matter was included as a topic for consideration within the Committee's Work Programme for the meeting to be held on the 25th September, 2017.

In addition to the topics included within the Committee's proposed Work Programme as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, training for Members of the Committee was also incorporated which comprised Treasury Management (September) and Understanding the Council's Budgets (September or October).

A discussion ensued when it was suggested by the Chair that Amgen Cymru be incorporated within the Committee's Work Programme for the meeting to be held on the 4th December, 2017, when it was agreed by Members that this matter should be included within the Work Programme of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Committee, if felt appropriate by Members of that Committee.

RESOLVED – To agree the Committee's Work Programme for the municipal year 2017/18 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

5. COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE REPORT – 31ST MARCH, 2017 (YEAR END)

The Service Director, Performance and Improvement presented the Council's Year End Performance Report (as at 31st March, 2017) to the Committee.

It was explained to Members that the Year End Council Performance Report was presented to Cabinet at its meeting held on the 18th July, 2017 and contains revenue and capital budget performance, Treasury Management prudential indicators; Organisational Health Information including staff turnover, sickness and Council strategic risks; Corporate Plan priority action plan updates and the cross cutting theme of `Living Within Our Means`); and other national indicators.

Members raised a number of questions to the Service Director, Performance and Improvement, one of which was in relation to information being provided to the Committee on the level of sickness absence. The Service Director stated that a programme of work is underway to support services to improve attendance and a further up date on sickness absence levels would be included as part of the Council's 2017/18 quarter 1 Performance Report. Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** –

1. That the Service Director, Performance and Improvement respond to the Members direct in respect of the following queries:-
 - i. Empty properties that have returned to occupation that had been vacant for more than six months as it was felt by the Chair of the Committee that the 2015/16 year performance of 11.08%, as indicated in the report, was potentially not correct.

- ii. Explanation of the year end performance of Delayed Transfers of Care as there were two performance indicators within the report, where the wording of both was very similar and therefore confusing.
2. that the number of children looked after that had been reported as missing be included within the Work Programme of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

**GERAINT DAVIES
CHAIR**