

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 Wednesday, 23rd July 2018 at 5 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor M. Powell – Chair

County Borough Councillors

S. Bradwick	G. Holmes	J. Williams
G. Caple	G. Hughes	R. Yeo
J. Cullwick	S. Rees- Owen	
G.R. Davies	G. Thomas	

Non Committee/ Education Co-Opted Members in Attendance

County Borough Councillor M. Norris – Cabinet Member for Corporate Services
Mr J Fish – Elected Parent / Governor Representative

Also in Attendance

Mr.R.Hull – Chair and Lay Member of the Audit Committee

Officers in Attendance

Mr.P.Griffiths, Service Director, Performance & Improvement
Mr.C.B. Jones – Director of Legal and Democratic Services

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED – to note that there were no declarations made at the meeting pertaining to the agenda.

5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors A. Davies- Jones, M. Diamond, T. Williams.

6. MINUTES

RESOLVED - to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee held on the 23rd April 2018 and 4th July 2018 subject to it being noted that County Borough Councillor W. Lewis was present at the meeting on the 4th July 2018

7. MATTERS ARISING

The Service Director, Performance & Improvement updated Members with information from the 4th July 2018 meeting regarding the draft Corporate Performance Report 2018/19.

- The figure for the number of private sector dwellings which had been vacant for over 6 months had been corrected in the final version of the Report.
- The % of children that live in workless households figure, sourced from Stats Wales, had been removed from the Report due to a lack of clarity on its basis and consistency with unemployment statistics included.
- Reference had been included in the 2018/19 Place priority action plan in respect of the Rhondda Tunnel.
- It was confirmed that no 2017/18 information was available for performance indicator '% of residents satisfied with the County Borough as a place to live' due to it being a new indicator for 2018/19.

8. FINANCE & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19

The Committee considered the report of the Director, Legal and Democratic Services which set out a proposed approach to draft a work programme for the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee and were asked to consider adopting the draft work programme for 2018/19, which was attached at Appendix 1.

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services reported that whilst devising a draft work programme for the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee, a number of topics were added through the outcomes of the one-to-one engagement sessions between the Cabinet Member and Scrutiny Chair and Vice Chair, and the work of the Committee during 2017/18.

It was brought to Members attention that the Council's quarterly Performance Report for quarter 1 would be moved from September 2018 to the October 2018 meeting of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee.

The Chair also brought to Members attention the discussion at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of 18th April 2018 around the Council's Sickness Absence Policy and felt that it would be a good piece of work for the Committee to consider.

After further discussion it was **RESOLVED**:

- To agree the Committee's Work Programme for the municipal year 2018/19 as set out in Appendix 1 and subject to amending the date for the Council's quarterly Performance Report (quarter 1) to be presented to the Committee; and
- To receive a report on sickness absence in September 2018.

9. QUARTER 4 COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT - 31ST MARCH 2018 (YEAR END)

The Service Director, Performance & Improvement presented the Council's Year End Performance Report (to 31st March 2018) to the Committee.

It was explained to Members that the Year End Report was presented and approved by Cabinet on the 17th July 2018 and contains revenue and capital budget performance; Treasury Management prudential indicators; Organisational Health information including staff turnover, sickness and Council strategic risks; Corporate Plan updates; other national measures; and target setting.

The Service Director, Performance & Improvement outlined the Corporate Plan priority updates along with a summary of performance measure results. Members made a number of observations and put a number of questions to the Service Director.

A Member commented that it was pleasing to see a number of empty properties coming back into use and agreed with the policy that had been put in place. The Member also commented on Delayed Transfers of Care performance, which was better than the target set, and felt the new Stay Well @home Service had made a positive contribution to the good performance result for the year.

A Member raised concerns over the amount of planning applications that were refused by the Authority but were won on appeal. The Chair of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee explained that the area is being considered by the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee where it will receive an annual report from the Planning Service along with a review of the "Code of Good Practice".

A Member highlighted the below target performance around the '% difference in the attendance of FSM / non-FSM pupils in secondary schools'. The Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee explained that school attendance and the gap between FSM and Non-FSM is being considered as part of the Children and Young People Work Programme for 2018 /19.

A Member also requested whether more detail could be included in the Performance Report around turnover and sickness information for schools. The Service Director indicated that the request would be reviewed to identify the further relevant information that could be incorporated into the report.

Following discussion Members **RESOLVED** to:

- Acknowledge the Council's financial and operational performance position as at 31st March 2018(Year End);
- Acknowledge the work already included on other scrutiny work programmes in line with matters highlighted by the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee; and
- Support the inclusion of further information on turnover and sickness information for schools.

**CLLR M. POWELL
CHAIR**

The meeting closed at 6.35 p.m.