

**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 17<sup>th</sup> October at 5 p.m.

**PRESENT**

County Borough Councillor M. Powell – Chair

**County Borough Councillors**

L. Hooper	W. Lewis	J. Elliott
G. Caple	S. Rees-Owen	R. Yeo
J. Cullwick	G. Thomas	G. Holmes

**Other Members in Attendance**

County Borough Councillor L. M. Adams – Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee

County Borough Councillor M. Norris - Cabinet Member for Corporate Services

**Non Committee / Education Co-Opted Members in Attendance**

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

**18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors S. Bradwick, G. R. Davies, A. Davies- Jones, J. Williams and T. Williams.

## **20. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** - to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee held on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

## **21. MATTERS ARISING**

**Minute No 13** - A Member queried the ‘% of children that live in workless households’ figure, sourced from Stats Wales, and highlighted that there continued to be a lack of clarity around the reason(s) for statistical results varying, particularly between years 2015 and 2016. The Service Director – Performance and Improvement fed back that the information is compiled by the Office for National Statistics and is based on a sample survey of households each year. The Service Director added that further work would be undertaken with Council Services to identify what other local information is collected to aid a better understanding of the statistics reported.

Members were informed that up dates were in the process of being compiled and would be circulated prior to the next meeting for Minute No. 14 (calculation of footfall information in town centres), Minute No. 15 (impact on the Council’s borrowing costs if Bank of England interest rates increase by ¼%, ½% and ¾%), Minute No. 16 (sickness information) and Minute No. 17 (Community Infrastructure Levy).

In addition, Members requested that the Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services presents the ‘Review of 2018/19 Performance Indicator Targets’ Report (that was presented to the 24<sup>th</sup> September Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee) to the next meeting of Chairs and Vice Chairs, to enable Members to consider and agree the allocation of performance indicators to Scrutiny Committees and also confirm which will be scrutinised as part of existing work programmes.

## **22. REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR CORPORATE & FRONTLINE SERVICES.**

The Service Director - Performance and Improvement presented the Council’s Quarter 1 (to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018) Performance Report to Committee.

The Service Director explained that the Quarter 1 Report was presented to Cabinet on 20<sup>th</sup> September 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; other national measures; and target setting.

The Service Director - Performance & Improvement went on to provide Members with an update on progress made across the Council’s Corporate Plan priorities and indicated that out of 29 performance indicators reported with a target in

Quarter 1, 18 were 'on target', 2 were 'within 5% of the target' and 9 were 'not on target'.

Following the overview by the Service Director, Members scrutinised the report and put forward their questions. As part of the dialogue, a Member highlighted the 'Summary of Progress to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018' for the 'People' Corporate Plan priority did not provide sufficient 'balance' taking into account that out of 11 performance indicators reported with a target, 7 were 'not on target'.

The Service Director fed back that Quarter 1 is a relatively early stage in the reporting year and indicated that factors impacting on performance during the first 3 months were the setting of challenging targets, temporary conditions / scenarios that should normalise as the year progresses and areas where on-going improvement is very challenging to achieve. The Service Director went on to provide examples in terms of:

- Challenging targets – 'Delayed transfers of care for social care reasons per 1,000 population aged 18+', where the 2018/19 target was 2.40 compared to 2017/18 actual performance of 3.31, and the longer term performance trend is one of significant improvement;
- Temporary conditions / scenarios – 'Number of visits to local authority sports and leisure facilities per 1,000 population where the visitor will be participating in physical activity' - where additional investment in facilities has necessitated specific areas of leisure centres being closed for temporary periods to enable improvement works to be completed (having the effect of reducing visitor numbers during these periods); and
- Areas where on-going improvement is very challenging – where the number of children looked after has increased between March 2018 (676) and June 2018 (684). The Service Director added that keeping vulnerable children safe continues to be a high priority for the Council and embedding the relatively new Resilient Families Service aims to support this area through helping to prevent problems escalating to the point that specialist service intervention is required.

The Service Director concluded by confirming that appropriate regard will continue to be given to ensure 'Summary of Progress' up dates are balanced in future Performance Reports.

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED** to endorse the Council's financial and operational performance position as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018 (Quarter 1).

## **23. URGENT BUSINESS**

The comments of the Chairman were noted regarding the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund and whether it considers climate change implications when

determining investment decisions. The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services informed Members that this area was raised at the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018 Pension Fund Committee where it was agreed that the Fund has a role in addressing the challenges posed by climate change and the associated wider issues, and that opportunities will be explored to expedite the Fund's involvement and work with regard to 'Responsible Investment' matters.

**CLLR M. POWELL  
CHAIR**

**The meeting closed at 5.40 p.m.**